United Nations S/PV.7990

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7990th meeting
Thursday, 29 June 2017, 3.55 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Llorentty Soliz	(Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Members:	China	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Shutenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Non-proliferation

Letter dated 13 June 2017 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/495)

Third report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/515)

Letter dated 22 June 2017 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/537)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-18854 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

Letter dated 13 June 2017 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/495)

Third report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/515)

Letter dated 22 June 2017 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/537)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Germany to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Mr. João Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to the following documents: a letter dated 13 June 2017 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/495); the third report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/515); and a letter dated 22 June 2017 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/537).

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. João Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, and Mr. Sebastiano Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy, in his capacity as a Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

I now give the floor to Mr. Feltman.

Mr. Feltman: Two years after the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the Secretary-General is immensely encouraged by the continued commitment by all participants to the agreement. The JCPOA — reached by the E3/EU+3 and Iran on 14 July 2015 — is the embodiment of successful multilateral diplomacy, political will and perseverance. This diplomatic achievement reflects the spirit and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and gives us all hope that even the most difficult issues among States can be addressed through dialogue, understanding and reciprocity. As noted by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms. Federica Mogherini, this agreement belongs to the entire international community. Hence, it is imperative that all JCPOA participants, the United Nations and the international community at large, continue to support the full and effective implementation of this historic agreement.

Today's meeting of the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) is taking place against the backdrop of steady implementation, cooperation and progress. Since implementation day, on 16 January 2016, the International Atomic Energy Agency has issued seven reports documenting continued implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments. The recent 25 April meeting of the Joint Commission of the JCPOA in Vienna — the fifth meeting since implementation day — noted the continued adherence to JCPOA commitments by all its participants, and stressed the need to ensure its full and effective implementation.

The Secretary-General believes that the comprehensive and sustained implementation of the JCPOA will guarantee that Iran's nuclear programme remains exclusively peaceful, while allowing for transparency, monitoring and verification. It will also provide Iran with an opportunity for greater engagement with the international community and assist in increasing Iran's trade and economic relations. It will also bring forth to a satisfactory conclusion the consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue by the Security Council.

I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to brief the Security Council on the third report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution

2231 (2015) (S/2017/515). The report was submitted to the Council on 16 June pursuant to annex B to resolution 2231 (2015) and paragraph 7 of the note by the President of the Council issued on 16 January 2016 (S/2016/44). As guided by the Security Council, the report of the Secretary-General focuses on the implementation of the provisions contained in annex B to resolution 2231 (2015). Let me turn to the main findings of the third report.

First, the Secretary-General has not received any report, nor is he aware of any open source information, regarding the supply, sale or transfer to Iran of nuclear-related items undertaken contrary to the provisions of the resolution. I also welcome the fact that Member States are making greater use of the procurement channel. Since 30 December 2016, 10 new nuclear-related proposals were submitted to the Security Council for approval, bringing to 16 the total number of proposals submitted since implementation day. Of the 16 proposals, 10 were approved by the Council, two were withdrawn by the proposing States and four are currently under review. The proposals were processed in accordance with the timelines established by resolution 2231 (2015), with due regard for information security and confidentiality. The operational linkages established between the Security Council and the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission are both effective and efficient. In that regard, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent cooperation we have with the European External Action Service, especially its Coordinator of the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission.

Secondly, regarding the implementation of ballistic missile-related provisions, the report notes that, on 29 January, Iran launched a medium-range ballistic missile. Letters were submitted to the Secretary-General by Iran and Israel, and jointly by France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, concerning the launch. The letters presented a range of views and interpretations. As in the case of the ballistic missile launches by Iran in March 2016, there was no consensus in the Security Council on how this particular launch related to resolution 2231 (2015). In that regard, I would like to quote exactly from the third report of the Secretary-General:

> "I call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to avoid such ballistic missile launches, which have the potential to increase tensions. I appeal to all Member States to redouble their efforts to promote peace and stability in the region." (*S/2017/515, para. 9*)

Thirdly, in terms of restrictions on arms-related transfers, the report includes additional information on the seizure of an arms shipment by the French navy in the northern Indian Ocean in March 2016. In January 2017, France invited the Secretariat to examine the seized arms. After examination of the weapons and analysis of information provided, the Secretariat is confident that the weapons seized are of Iranian origin and were shipped from Iran.

Fourthly, the report also highlights the participation, for the second year in a row, of the Defence Industries Organisation (DIO) in the Iraq defence exhibition held in March, which may again have implications regarding the implementation of the assets freeze. Since the DIO is an entity on the list maintained pursuant to resolution 2231 (2015), its funds, other financial assets and economic resources on the Iraqi territory should have been frozen by the Iraqi authorities. The issue was raised again with the Permanent Mission of Iraq, and the Secretary-General intends to report to the Council in due course. The Secretary-General's report also provides information on additional travels by Major General Qasem Soleimani since the second report (S/2016/1136). The travels were reported by Iranian and Arab media outlets.

In addition to the findings I have just mentioned, the report also reflects official information provided by Member States to the Secretary-General, including from Israel, Lebanon, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Yemen. The Secretariat has not been able to independently corroborate those reports and will provide further updates, as appropriate, should additional information become available.

As we are about to enter into the third year of the implementation of the JCPOA, the Secretary-General would like to once again reaffirm the particular responsibilities of JCPOA participants in carrying forward the full and effective implementation of this agreement. The Secretary-General is hopeful that all participants will continue to make progress in the implementation of the agreement and, in the process, secure its durability.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of His Excellency Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi of Italy in his role as Facilitator for the

implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). I would also like to convey our fullest support to him, as well as to the Security Council, in the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. João Pedro Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Vale de Almeida: I thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor. I am honoured again to address the Security Council today on behalf of the European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in her capacity as the Coordinator of the Joint Commission established by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

First, I would like to thank Secretary-General, as well as our colleague the Ambassador of Italy, who is serving as the Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), for the excellent cooperation. Let me also express our gratitude to our colleagues in the Security Council Affairs Division for their unwavering support, in particular regarding the running of the procurement channel. I would also like to note our appreciation for their work in the preparation of the latest report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/515), as well as the Under-Secretary-General for his intervention in the Council today.

Almost two years ago, on 20 July 2015, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2231 (2015), which endorsed and operationalized the JCPOA. This unanimous endorsement has ensured that the JCPOA, which was born of the efforts of the E3+3 and Iran, coordinated by the European Union High Representative, now belongs to the whole United Nations membership and the wider international community. It is worth recalling that the Iranian nuclear programme was one the most contentious issues on the international agenda, and yet it was possible — through diplomacy and a multilateral approach — to come to a negotiated solution. In a moment where the world is again faced with the threat of unchecked nuclear capabilities, the JCPOA is a pillar of the international non-proliferation agenda. It needs to be preserved and fully implemented.

One of the keys to the success of the deal is that it exclusively focuses on one particular issue — Iran's nuclear programme This is not to say that other issues are less relevant. They are all an integral part of resolution 2231 (2015), and we expect full compliance. However, we would not be in a better position to address all the other non-nuclear matters without the JCPOA in place. We fully agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that it is in the interests of the international community, writ large, that this achievement of multilateral diplomacy endure transitions and implementation challenges, thereby cementing our collective commitment to diplomacy and dialogue.

Almost two years after its conclusion, and one and a half years after implementation day, we can say that the JCPOA is being properly implemented and is delivering on its objectives. The initial results are clear and speak for themselves: Iran's nuclear programme has been rolled back and placed under tight inspections; and the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly confirmed — in six reports — that Iran is abiding by its commitments. At the same time, and as a consequence of the lifting of nuclear-related sanctions, we are witnessing improvements in Iran's macroeconomic performance. That is a result of strong growth in trade and foreign direct investment. Oil production has returned to pre-sanctions days. Tourism has been revived, and key infrastructure and investment deals have been agreed, including, for instance, with Airbus and Boeing. Those are only some of the positive indicators pointing to a growing revival of trade and business with Iran.

The multilateral nature of the JCPOA and its important role as a cornerstone of the international non-proliferation architecture were recalled by the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union, most recently in November, and also on many occasions by the EU High Representative — for example, when we celebrated the first anniversary of implementation day on 16 January, in her contacts with many world leaders and in her address to the Security Council this spring (see S/PV.7935).

However, JCPOA implementation is an ongoing task, and we expect full and effective implementation by all sides throughout the lifetime of the agreement. Taking a look at the JCPOA, in particular its five annexes, we realize the complexity and the wide scope of the agreement, as well as the challenges ahead for us in the coming years. The quality of the deal will also

be tested by its implementation, and, as coordinators of the process, we will not settle for anything less than strict adherence to what was agreed by all sides.

The EU High Representative, as the Coordinator of the Joint Commission, which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the deal, remains fully committed to the JCPOA. Since implementation day, we have already chaired five JCPOA Joint Commission meetings, which have monitored implementation and provided guidance on a number of implementation issues. The rigorous implementation of commitments by all sides continues to be the best way to build trust, strengthen the JCPOA and overcome the hurdles that are part of all comprehensive and far-reaching deals. In order to ensure transparency, the Joint Commission has published a number of important interpretative guidance documents.

A lot of the debate about the merits of the deal has been focused on Iran's nuclear obligations, which are laid out in annex I of the JCPOA, and on the lifting of sanctions, which is the subject of annex II. However, let me today briefly touch upon annex III of the JCPOA, which deals with civil nuclear cooperation.

Annex III is key in the overall balance of the agreement and essential for our overall objective of ensuring the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. The EU is already engaging with Iran on a number of concrete projects, which are mostly focused on nuclear safety — something we are all interested in. That cooperation is outlined in the joint EU-Iran statement on civil nuclear cooperation, which was adopted in April last year. For example, it means that we are inviting Iranian nuclear experts and scientists to participate in civil nuclear-research activities and in conferences of nuclear-safety regulators. A few months ago, we held a high-level seminar on civil nuclear cooperation and governance, which was well attended by Iranian officials and parliamentarians. It led to the important joint conclusion that civil nuclear cooperation and the adherence to international norms on nuclear governance have to go hand in hand.

I will now focus on the work of the Procurement Working Group, responsible for reviewing proposals by States seeking to engage in activities with Iran that are for nuclear and non-nuclear civilian end-uses. Since implementation day, the Procurement Working Group, which is made up of representatives of the E3+3 and Iran and coordinated by a delegated coordinator of the EU High Representative, has been in full operation. Setting up a new authorization mechanism, which entered into force after a long prohibition period, was not an easy task. The first proposals received through the procurement channel have been reviewed and approved. It is worth noting that not only is the number of proposals steadily increasing, but so is the number of countries submitting proposals to the procurement channel. That is a demonstration that the established procurement mechanism works.

Transparency was one of our guiding principles during the negotiations and a cornerstone of the JCPOA. According to para 6.10 of annex IV of the agreement, the Joint Commission shall report to the Security Council every six months on the status of the Procurement Working Group's decisions and on any implementation issues. In that context, on 12 June 2017, the Coordinator of the Procurement Working Group submitted to the Facilitator, on behalf of the Joint Commission, its third biannual report. The report aims at providing the Facilitator and Security Council members with an overview of the work undertaken by the Procurement Working Group from 23 December 2016 to 12 June 2017. The report has been circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/2017/495).

During this period, the Procurement Working Group continued to work intensively to further develop the Group's operational modalities. It also made great efforts to be as transparent as possible, without compromising confidentiality, by reaching out to States Members of the United Nations and promoting a better understanding of its aims, objectives and review process.

I would like to conclude by reiterating once more the European Union's resolute willingness to preserve and protect the JCPOA and to work for its successful implementation throughout its lifetime. The world would not be a safer place without the JCPOA. We therefore call on all other parties to remain committed to the full implementation of the JCPOA in good faith, as well as of resolution 2231 (2015) in all its dimensions. This is essential to continuing to build trust, strengthen multilateral diplomacy, reinforce non-proliferation and promote regional peace and stability.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Vale de Almeida for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Cardi.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): I would like to thank you in particular, Mr. President, for calling today's meeting. I also offer my thanks to Under-Secretary-General Feltman for his briefing on the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/515), and to Ambassador Vale de Almeida for his briefing on behalf of Ms. Federica Mogherini.

Today I will touch on three aspects of my report for the period from 16 January 2017 through 15 June 2017: first, the activities of the Security Council in the "2231 format"; secondly, monitoring of the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015); and, thirdly, developments in the procurement channel and other requests for approval. The full version of the report has been circulated to Council members and has been issued under the symbol S/2017/537.

First, with regard to the 2231 format, following the Security Council's informal consultations on the 29 January 2017 ballistic-missile launch by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Council held a meeting on 2 March in the 2231 format to further consider the launch. I will summarize our discussion in the second part of my briefing.

On 17 March, the Security Council held a meeting in the 2231 format to hear a briefing from the Coordinator of the Procurement Working Group of the Joint Commission established in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). In his briefing, the Coordinator gave an overview of the procurement channel and of the Procurement Working Group's functions, activities, processing of proposals and various benchmarks. During the same meeting, the Council also agreed to shift the reporting schedule on resolution 2231 (2015) implementation from July-January to June-December, thereby allowing the Facilitators to brief the Council after six months into and at the end of their terms.

In line with paragraph 4 of the resolution, in February and June 2017, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency submitted two quarterly reports on verification and monitoring activities. The February report recalled that on 15 January 2017, the Agency verified that Iran had taken the actions specified in annex V of the JCPOA, namely, the removal of all excess centrifuges and infrastructure from the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant and their transfer to storage at the Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant under continuous Agency monitoring. In addition, the Agency indicated that, on 21 January, the Islamic Republic of Iran, under Agency verification and monitoring, began feeding natural UF6 into a single IR-8 centrifuge for the first time.

In both quarterly reports, the Agency affirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran had not pursued the construction of the existing Arak heavy water research reactor based on its original design; had no more than 130 metric tonnes of heavy water; had no more than 5,060 centrifuges that have remained installed in 30 cascades at Natanz; had not enriched uranium above 3.67 per cent U-235; had not conducted any uranium enrichment or related research and development activities at Fordow; and that there had not been any nuclear material at the plant.

On 2 March 2017, at the 2231 format meeting, the experts of one Member State observed that the medium-range ballistic missile, a Khorramshahr, tested by the Islamic Republic of Iran on 29 January was designed to carry a payload greater than 500 kilograms to a range over 1,000 kilometres (km). The experts noted that

> "500 kg has been the approximate mass required to carry a first-generation nuclear weapon and 300 km is an internationally accepted range of strategic significance".

They concluded that the test constituted an activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Following the briefing, the issue of the particular sensitivity of the launch, with regard to its regional implications and its relation to resolution 2231 (2015), raised by some representatives, was discussed. A representative emphasized that resolution 2231 (2015) does not provide a definition as to which types of missiles are constructed in such a manner as to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Other delegations said that resolution 2231 (2015) concerns intrinsic capability rather than intent. Since the launch involved a system that was, by design, capable of delivering a nuclear warhead, its use was therefore inconsistent with resolution 2231 (2015).

In the light of the views expressed by delegations, I noted that there was no consensus on how this particular launch relates to resolution 2231 (2015). I stressed that it was essential for the Security Council to act in a unified manner in this area, so as to help foster the effective implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). I also proposed that, in the framework of my

regular contacts with interested parties, including the Permanent Representative of Iran, I would underline the importance, for all parties, of continuing to maintain an attitude conducive to building trust and to implement the terms of the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015).

With respect to procurement channel developments and other requests of approval, since implementation day a total of 16 proposals to participate in or permit the activities set forth in paragraph 2 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015) have been submitted to the Security Council by four Member States from three different regional groups, including States that are not participants in the JCPOA. That reflects the growing confidence of Member States in the procurement channel. I am also pleased to note that, on average, the proposals were processed through the procurement channel in less than 46 calendar days.

A proposal to participate in and permit the activities set forth in paragraph 5 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015) was submitted on 23 November 2016 by a Member State that, on 24 February, provided additional information. On 28 February, I informed that Member State that the Security Council had reached no agreement and returned its request.

In conclusion, 18 months after implementation day, transparency, practical guidance and outreach remain a priority. In that regard, I plan to engage in new outreach activities on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) during the second part of my tenure. In the short term, on 14 July, I intend to convene an open briefing for States Member of the United Nations to raise awareness and understanding of the resolution and its implementation.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Ambassador Cardi for his briefings.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): I thank Under-Secretary Feltman for his briefing today, and Ambassador Vale de Almeida for his comments.

The topic of compliance by the Iranian regime with its international obligations reminds me of the fable of the scorpion and the frog. The scorpion asks the frog for a ride across the river. The frog, quite rationally, asks: "how do I know you will not sting me?" And the scorpion replies: "because it would kill both of us. We would both drown." So the frog is convinced. He lets the Scorpion get on his back and starts across the river. But, sure enough, midway through, the scorpion stings him. With his last breath, the frog asks: "why?" And the scorpion replies: "because it is in my nature."

The Secretary-General's report (S/2017/515) is filled with devastating evidence of the nature of the Iranian regime. In paragraph after paragraph it documents the Iranian Government's actions in defiance of resolution to 2231 (2015): repeated ballistic missile launches; proven arms smuggling; illicit procurement of ballistic-missile-related technology. Iran's destructive and destabilizing role in the Middle East goes far beyond its illicit missile launches.

From Syria to Yemen and Iraq to Lebanon, Iran's support for terrorist groups continues unabated. Iran's weapons, military advisers and arms smugglers stoke regional conflicts and make them harder to solve. Iran's leaders abuse their own people. The Iranian people deserve better. The Iranian people know the horror of chemical-weapon attacks, and so it is sad and horrifying — the irony that the Iranian regime now supports a dictator in Syria who uses the same evil weapons against his own people.

But, just as alarming as the actions of the scorpion, is the gullibility of the frog. It has been almost two years since the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2231 (2015), a resolution that this report confirms has been repeatedly and deliberately violated by the Iranian regime. And yet the Security Council has failed to even take minimal steps to respond to the violations. What is more, these violations are not occurring in secret; they are being covered in the media, and yet the Council has done nothing. Let me give an example.

Resolution 2231 (2015) banned Iranian Major General Soleimani from travelling outside of Iran. It gave all Member States a clear and unambiguous obligation to deny him entry. Nonetheless, the Secretary-General's report cites multiple press photos and reports of the General travelling to Syria and Iraq. And that is not the first time he has openly travelled to other countries. This is a violation of the Security Council's authority, plain and simple. Furthermore, it is one that is occurring out in the open for the entire world to see.

The Secretary-General's report makes clear that Iran is in violation of resolution 2231 (2015). And so the question becomes: what is the Security Council going to do about it? What will we do to make Iran understand

that resolution 2231 (2015) means something? We as the Security Council must stand behind the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015). We must strictly enforce them and show Iran that we will not tolerate its egregious flouting of United Nations resolutions. Those measures are there for a reason, and the Council should be able to enforce them. For its part, the United States will not continue to turn a blind eye to the Iranian regime's behaviour. In its national capacity, the United States will do its part to enforce resolution 2231 (2015). We will work with our global partners to interdict cargo that it prohibits, and we will continue to impose our own sanctions on those who abet violations of it.

With regard to the parts of the resolution that address the nuclear deal, as we have said previously, the United States is now undertaking a comprehensive review of that policy. Until the review is completed, we will comply with our commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and we expect Iran to do the same. A continuance of the Iranian regime's destructive, destabilizing behaviour will prevent it from ever having a normal relationship with the United States or the rest of the world, and its continued oppression of its own people speaks volumes about its true nature. At a military parade last September, the Iranian Government first displayed the missile that it fired into Syria last week. The new missiles were accompanied by a banner that read "If the leaders of the Zionist regime make a mistake, the Islamic Republic will turn Tel Aviv and Haifa to dust". Those are not the words of a peace-loving regime or a responsible member of the international community. They are the words of a scorpion. The Security Council must recognize that and act accordingly.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank you, Mr. President, for yesterday's debate on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (see S/PV.7985). I would like to thank today's briefers, particularly Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, for his presentation of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/515). France welcomes this solid, balanced report and presentation. I would also like to thank Ambassador Vale de Almeida of the European Union and Ambassador Cardi of Italy, in his capacity as Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

Over the years, the international community, whose voice the Security Council should echo, has built a solid, enduring system of collective security, at the heart of which is the current non-proliferation regime that we have painstakingly constructed. It is based on robust international instruments that we all value and of which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), concluded on 14 July 2015 in Vienna between the E3+3 and Iran, has been in force for almost 18 months now. It has become part of the framework defined by these instruments and is designed to reinforce them.

By its endorsement of the agreement through its adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), the Council was able to respond robustly to a major proliferation crisis. It puts in place a 10-year guarantee that Iran will not develop a military nuclear programme. That represents a key step both for our international non-proliferation efforts and for international peace and security as well as a historic achievement for the Security Council. France has already emphasized that we have a duty and a responsibility to ensure that it lasts. This is an issue linked to the stability of the Middle East, which is already in the throes of numerous crises. Mr. Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, brought it up just today during his talks with Mr. Zarif, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran.

Consolidating the Vienna agreement and ensuring its durability requires a robust and balanced implementation of all the commitments made by the parties to the agreement, carried out with the necessary transparency and effectiveness. France would like to highlight the fact that on 2 June, the International Atomic Energy Agency noted that Iran had not failed to meet any of its nuclear commitments during the verification period. We welcome the reports that the procurement channel is functioning well, based on the reviews of the proposals for transfers that have been submitted. We reiterate that all the requests submitted under the established procedure will be carefully and rigorously reviewed. Incidentally, France's bilateral cooperation with Iran has significantly increased in value since January 2016 and the JCPOA's entry into force. Our purchases of Iranian crude oil have reached €2 billion since then, and our two countries have begun discussions on the launch of bilateral cooperation in various specifically civil nuclear areas strictly within the framework outlined by the JCPOA.

However, we should make it clear that the commitments made almost two years ago do not

end with the JCPOA, as a framework, nor with the substance of its nuclear aspects. The establishment of an atmosphere of lasting trust entails full and total respect for the commitments undertaken in their entirety and outlined in resolution 2231 (2015). The specifics in the Secretary-General's report regarding Iran's failure to respect several of its important provisions can only raise serious concerns, the first being the missile launch that took place this winter and that France condemned. This kind of action contradicts resolution 2231 (2015), which clearly calls on Iran not to proceed with ballistic-missile activities capable of carrying nuclear weapons, including launching such missiles. Furthermore, those actions are being undertaken in a fragile regional context and runs counter to the process of restoration of trust established by the Vienna agreement. It is vital to regional stability and international security to ensure that Iran ends any activity that could result in an escalation of the situation.

We are also concerned about the implications of weapons that have been seized and that are suspected of or known to be either originating in or destined for Iran, including by my own country, and that have been reported or confirmed by the Secretariat. Such transfers are violations of resolution 2231 (2015) and fuel animosity in a fragile regional context. Lastly, we are also worried about the information concerning foreign travel by Major General Soleimani, who is still under a travel ban. We urge all States Members of the United Nations to comply with their obligations, especially where assets freezes and travel bans are concerned.

Maintaining a firm collective commitment to the flexible but rigorous implementation of provisions that we ourselves have agreed on is of course essential, as the Secretary-General emphasizes in his report. But it should also be clear that this commitment should be maintained in the same spirit of cooperation that led to the agreement, through a demanding and comprehensive dialogue between all the parties concerned. To be precise, what I mean is that ensuring the continued success of this diplomatic effort requires strict and consistent respect for the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015) in their entirety and for the JCPOA. France will be vigilant and will work to ensure that the Security Council, with the firm and constant support of the Secretariat, will also monitor the entire process.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Feltman, Ambassador Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, and Ambassador Cardi, Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), for their briefings.

My country fully supports and strictly implements resolution 2231 (2015), as it is crucial for ensuring the proper implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Kazakhstan attaches great importance to that historic agreement, which is reckoned as the most momentous achievement of multilateral diplomacy in recent decades. We are pleased that Kazakhstan had direct involvement in that process and had an impact on its success.

As part of our initiative, we organized two rounds of talks in 2003 in Almaty, which paved the way for that agreement. As part of it, in 2015, Kazakhstan supplied Iran with natural uranium on commercial terms as compensation for the removal of low-enriched uranium from that country, as specified in the JCPOA. We are ready, should there be any further need, to continue our supply, in accordance with the requirements of resolution 2231 (2015) and other documents related to the uranium-related nuclear programme.

As noted in the third report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/515), the International Atomic Energy Agency continues to verify and monitor the Islamic Republic of Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related obligations. In that regard, we commend the commitment of Iran to comply with resolution 2231 (2015) and the JCPOA. We would also appreciate more comprehensive reports dealing with all relevant parts of resolution 2231 (2015).

As for the allegations in the report relating to the violations of some of the provisions of annex B of the resolution, we will expect more detailed information, as promised in that text. We therefore call for the transparent and impartial investigation of those cases. That process requires more active interaction among the Secretariat, Iran and all interested parties. Implementing the JCPOA has had a significant impact on normalizing the situation in the region and beyond. The Plan of Action will also have a positive effect on the revitalization of economic activities in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that Kazakhstan will continue to support and strictly implement resolution 2231 (2015). Moreover, it affirms its right to cooperate with Iran within the framework of the implementation of the JCPOA. We believe that

the implementation of the JCPOA and strict observance with its obligations by all parties are crucial for strengthening non-proliferation and regional security. We stand ready with others to contribute to its further practical realization. Finally, we believe that the Security Council, as a guarantor of international peace and security, should always insist on full compliance, and Kazakhstan will play its part in that collective action.

Mr. Moustafa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; Mr. Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations; and Mr. Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, for their comprehensive and detailed briefings regarding the follow-up on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

We are of the view that the Security Council should always be credible and earnest when addressing the risks of nuclear proliferation, without selectivity or politicization. We have always underscored that principled position in all international forums. In that same vein, Egypt's efforts to promote the universality of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime bear witness to our firm national position.

Egypt has on previous occasions welcomed the nuclear agreement with Iran enshrined in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). We view that agreement as a step towards the consolidation of security and stability in all the countries of the Middle East. Nevertheless, resolution 2231 (2015) goes beyond the provisions of that agreement, as it forges clear technical and legal regulations governing the transfer of conventional weapons and related technologies by Iran.

We stress the significance of the accurate and succinct implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) in accordance with its purpose, namely, addressing the risks of nuclear proliferation. Similarly, Iranian nuclear activities should be subjected to the necessary international controls in order to ensure Iran's compliance with its international obligations. That should eventually be integrated into the wider context of the implementation of international resolutions relating to the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

We consider the accurate, succinct, comprehensive and effective implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) to be an important element for stability in the Middle East, which will also prevent the launch of a regional arms race. It presents a rather significant opportunity to limit turbulence in the region, which is further exacerbated by Iran's regional behaviour, in particular the following subversive acts.

First, Iran has been fuelling conflicts in hotspots of armed conflict in the Middle East, especially in Yemen and Syria. Secondly, it has participated in the illicit smuggling of arms and weapons for militias and armed groups, which runs counter to resolutions of the Security Council and the provisions of international law. Thirdly, Iran has continued to intervene in the internal affairs of Arab States and has, in that connection, exported destructive and chaotic ideas that incite sectarianism, violence, extremism and terrorism.

In that vein, the previous Secretary-General spotted several instances of Iran violating its obligations. Mr. Feltman mentioned them in his briefing, and I will not reiterate them. However, I would like to highlight certain points. First, there was an arms shipment seized by France in March 2016. In fact, the report proved that that shipment was of Iranian origin and had been shipped from Iran with Somalia as its destination. Secondly, the continued ballistic missile tests will eventually exacerbate regional tensions. Thirdly, we look forward to the completion of the investigation of the Iranian shipment seized by Australia in early 2016. We call upon the Secretariat to inform us as soon as possible of the relevant technical conclusions.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that resolution 2231 (2015) and compliance with it by all parties should be comprehensive and integrated. The Security Council shall be held accountable by the international community and international public opinion to verify how earnest and serious that compliance is. Any failure or omission in that regard will eventually undermine the value and credibility of Security Council resolutions. In that connection, we would like to pay tribute to the Permanent Representative of Italy and his delegation as the Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). We stress the centrality of that role in following up and briefing member States of the Security Council on any developments, whether they be irregularities, violations or contraventions, in a timely manner in order to allow the Procurement Working Group, and thereby the Security Council, to undertake the appropriate measures. In that regard we welcome Ambassador Cardi's intention to hold

informative meetings open to all States Members of the United Nations.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for preparing the latest biannual report (S/2017/515) on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). We note the professional work of Mr. Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy and Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) and his team. For us, one thing is clear. The arrangements concluded two years ago on the Iranian nuclear programme must serve as a basis for cooperation and not a source of confrontation. In that regard, we note that, compared with the two previous reports, we see a serious attempt by the Secretary-General to give the text a more calibrated nature.

At the same time, we would like to flag some specific provisions of the report, so as to avoid repetition of such mistakes in the future. For example, the calls upon Iran to avoid ballistic missile launches carry far-reaching political ramifications that could potentially increase tensions in the region. Such statements have no place in that kind of report, which is devoted exclusively to the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). The resolution includes a call that allows no misinterpretation, namely, a call upon Iran to refrain from launching ballistic missiles that are built in such a way as to carry a nuclear warhead.

We also find it dubious that the weapons found on the vessel seized in the summer of 2016 were of Iranian origin or were being transported from Iran. Nor is there proof of other cases quoted in the report. In the cases of some of the incidents a number of States have carried out investigations in accordance with their respective legislation without reaching any result. Unproven, unsubstantiated facts have no place in the report. It is unacceptable to use in the report information that is unsubstantiated by concrete information, even if such information comes from a Member State. Such information must first be conveyed to the Security Council, which is authorized to take decisions on follow-up steps, including the carrying out of professional, objective and impartial investigations.

We do not understand the allegation that the Iranian vessel *Bushehr*, which stopped for repairs in a South African port, could have been in violation of any obligations under resolution 2231 (2015). We note the statement from Pretoria and would like to read it out loud.

> "[T]he assistance provided to the *Bushehr* related to emergency repairs undertaken in accordance with South Africa's international obligations to assist a vessel in distress". (*S/2017/515, para. 28*)

All of the actions undertaken were in line with South Africa's international commitments, since the ship was forced to stop owing to an emergency.

I wish to devote further attention to the following circumstance. With regard to the leaks that appeared in the media some time ago from parts of the then still unpublished report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), we would stress the fact that such actions are unacceptable. The Secretariat must hold the report closely under review, and members of the Security Council must not resort to such irresponsible actions. It is our belief that such publications are aimed at exerting pressure on the Secretary-General.

We see that even the slightest attempt to give the text a more balanced nature tends to incur the wrath of some of our colleagues. We trust that in this matter a due level of integrity will prevail. It is unacceptable to turn the report into a political document. That defeats the whole purpose and thrust of resolution 2231 (2015) and will inevitably lead to the undermining of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. In accordance with the note of the President of the Security Council dated 16 January 2016 (S/2016/57), the Secretary-General's report should relate exclusively to implementation of the resolution, without any kind of political connotations.

In conclusion, I would like to note Russia's commitment to categorical, comprehensive implementation of the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which represent outstanding achievements in the world of diplomacy that have allowed us to tackle one of the most complex issues. The importance of this nuclear deal is recognized by the vast majority of the members of the international community. That arrangement can serve as a template when tackling other pressing problems. The agreement showed that, in the presence of political will, agreements of that kind can serve as a fundamental pillar for forging inclusive international and regional cooperation, which will open the window of possibility for sustainably addressing the numerous conflicts in the Middle East.

It is within our power to achieve the successful implementation of the agreement. It will require refraining from the language of threats and sanctions and focusing on scrupulous implementation of the commitments voluntarily undertaken by all parties — bar none — in line with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China thanks you, Sir, for convening today's meeting. I also thank Under-Secretary-General Feltman, Ambassador Cardi and Ambassador Vale de Almeida for their briefings, and I commend the parties for the work they have done. Since its start, over one year ago, the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has been steady, leading to gradually increasing, positive effects. The conclusion of the JCPOA represents a firm step towards a political settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue. It did not come easily. Now it is imperative to continue to promote follow-up implementation and the steady and long-term progress of the JCPOA. China would therefore propose the following.

First, the important significance of JCPOA implementation must be fully understood. The JCPOA is a successful example of addressing international and regional hotspot issues through political and diplomatic means. It means a lot in terms of strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and the maintenance of international and regional peace and security. Certain difficulties and challenges are unavoidable in the implementation of the JCPOA. The parties must proceed from the bigger picture, consolidate political will, avoid external influences and build confidence regarding the prospects of implementation.

Secondly, parties should earnestly implement their respective obligations and commitments. As indicated by the reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran has implemented its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. China appreciates Iran's efforts to implement the agreement and calls on the parties to continue to be guided by the JCPOA, stick to the step-by-step approach and the principles of reciprocity, equity and balance, honour their respective commitments and build mutual trust.

Thirdly, existing mechanism must be well-utilized. China has taken note of the report (S/2017/495) on the activities of the Procurement Working Group submitted by the Joint Commission to the Council. We welcome the briefing by the Coordinator of the Procurement Working Group to the implementation mechanism of resolution 2231 (2015). We will continue our active participation in the activities of the Joint Commission and the Procurement Working Group. It is China's hope that the working mechanisms can work within their mandates, yet form a synergy to jointly promote the implementation of the JCPOA. The parties should demonstrate mutual understanding and accommodation, and resolve their differences properly within the existing framework in an effort to seek consensus.

The Secretary-General's reports must be well balanced. China has taken note of the report (S/2017/515) submitted by Secretary-General Guterres. The Secretary-General's reports are an important part of the process of implementing the resolution and the JCPOA. Parties should bear in mind the larger picture and consider the Secretary-General's reports in conjunction with the overarching goal of implementing the resolution and the JCPOA. It is vital for the reports of the Secretary-General to reflect the efforts of the parties to fully implement the resolution in an objective and balanced way.

The reports should send a positive message, namely, that the parties are committed to implementing the resolution and the JCPOA. China notes that the Secretary-General has, in his report, underscored the significance of the conclusion of the JCPOA, and China has encouraged parties to support that historic agreement by fully and effectively implementing the agreement, so as to ensure that all participants can benefit.

With regard to Iran's missile launches, the parties should accurately interpret the relevant Council resolutions and handle that issue with great care so as to avoid undermining the implementation of the JCPOA. The Secretary-General's reports should benefit the maintenance of regional peace and stability, while relevant information should be accurate and credible.

China has taken note of some legitimate concerns of Iran about the content of the report, and hopes that those concerns can be reflected in the document in the future.

China has always maintained that the Iranian nuclear issue should be resolved through political and diplomatic means. We are committed to the consolidation of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime

and the maintenance of international regional peace and stability. China firmly supports and safeguards the JCPOA, which is a historic achievement, and is working actively to promote the renovation of the Arak heavy-water reactor, thereby playing a constructive role in promoting the implementation of the resolution and the agreement.

China will continue its active participation in the implementation process of the agreement, push for continued materialization of the dividends of the agreement to the benefit of the parties, so as to make our contribution to the comprehensive, long-term and proper settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman for the presentation of the third report (S/2017/515) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). I am also grateful for the briefings provided by Ambassador Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy and Facilitator of the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), and by Mr. Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union. The information provided in the briefings and the reports has some positive elements, which deserve to be highlighted, as well as some challenges and some elements of concern.

Uruguay is a country strongly committed to non-proliferation and to strengthening the disarmament regime. As Council members are aware, we do not have nuclear weapons. We are members of the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone through the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, which has just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. The latter covers the 33 States of the region that are signatories to the Treaty. We are also party to the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. For all of those reasons, Uruguay welcomed, with satisfaction and optimism, the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, signed on 14 July 2015, in Vienna between Iran, the five permanent members of the Council and Germany on the Iranian nuclear programme. That agreement represented a key achievement for non-proliferation and a significant contribution to international peace, security and stability. It eliminated one of the main sources of tension in the troubled Middle East region. The steps taken by the parties to the agreement show that, with political will and through the path of diplomacy, positive results can be achieved, even in cases where such results seem, a priori, out of reach.

As we did a few days ago in Vienna at the Board of Governors meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Uruguay expresses its full satisfaction at the progress made in the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and at the way in which the verification and monitoring activities of the IAEA in Iran are being carried out and the confirmation by the IAEA that Iran has complied with all of the provisions of the agreement. It is important for all the parties to continue complying with the provisions of the agreement and resolution 2231 (2015).

We note with concern the allegations contained in the report on the possible violations by Iran of some of the provisions of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015). All missile activity by Iran has the potential to heighten tensions in the region. We therefore call on the Iranian authorities to act with restraint and caution in the future.

With regard to the report of the Secretary-General, six months ago we expressed our interest in the following, namely, that in addition to the detailed analysis of Iran's compliance with annex B of resolution 2231 (2015), future editions of the report should also include the degree of compliance with other aspects of the resolution, including annex A. Annex A is nothing more nor less than the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action itself and the obligations arising from it for all parties to the agreement. It is therefore essential for us as Council members to receive reports about its implementation. We hope that such information will appear in future reports.

Uruguay continues to call upon all the parties to the agreement to adopt all necessary measures stipulated in resolution 2231 (2015) and to comply with its provisions in order not to jeopardize the historic agreement reached, which is the fruit of more than two years of intense negotiations. In that regard, we urge the parties to act with moderation and caution and to refrain from any action that might endanger the agreement. The Security Council, as a guarantor of international peace and security, must ensure full compliance of the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015).

Mr. Shutenko (Ukraine): I thank Under-Secretary-General Feltman, Mr. Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, and Ambassador Cardi of Italy, in his capacity as Facilitator for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231

(2015), for providing factual and substantial reports on the status of the implementation of both the resolution and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and for providing detailed presentations on the work conducted in that area over the past six months.

We highly commend the concerted efforts of the Secretariat, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Facilitator's team to ensure the full and proper implementation of those crucial instruments, which have contributed to the strengthening of non-proliferation and export-control regimes in general. In particular, Ukraine fully supports the IAEA's long-term mission of the verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear-related commitments, with the goal of reaching the overall conclusion of the matter. During the past six months, we witnessed a continuation of the smooth and effective functioning of the procurement channel mechanism, with the approval of several proposals to supply Iran with relevant goods and technologies.

As a staunch supporter of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Ukraine stresses the importance of diligent compliance with the JCPOA, which aims at striking a balance between the legitimate right to develop nuclear energy and the need to stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons. That historic nuclear deal fully respects such a balance. With its nuclear-weapons past, Ukraine remains committed to the goals of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and fully respects the restrictions and prohibitions introduced by the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Iran has been proving its intention to use nuclear technologies exclusively for peaceful purposes. At the same time, we also acknowledge the existence of varying interpretations regarding the applicability of resolution 2231 (2015) to its ballistic missile tests. Referring further to the third report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/515) on the implementation of that resolution, I wish to recall that the existing restrictions on arms-related transfers as well as the assets-freeze and the travel-ban provisions stipulated by annex B of resolution 2231 (2015) should be fully adhered to.

While recognizing that report to be an informative document that is based on public and open information and States' notifications, we consider that it is important to ensure that any concern it contains does not provoke further tensions but rather would be addressed and resolved through negotiations.

In that context, let me reiterate Ukraine's openness and readiness to continue constructive interactions with the Secretariat, including with regard to the incident that occurred in January in the airport in Kyiv, when an attempt to smuggle components of military goods to Iran was prevented by the Ukrainian law enforcement authorities. As soon as the pre-trial investigation of that case is finalized, all additional information will be shared in due course. We fully support the intention of the Secretary-General to continue examining all cases of concern and obtaining additional verified information.

Having stressed the imperative of full compliance with the relevant obligations, I would like to re-emphasize the importance of further outreach on the Iranian issue. The proper and diligent implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), with all of its annexes, will be a key contribution to regional and global security and stability.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): I thank the three briefers for their statements on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). Japan fully supports the Secretary-General's call for all Member States to act in accordance with, and in support of, the historic Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and to avoid provocative actions and statements. Japan is committed to working closely with Council members, Iran and all other Member States to enable the most effective possible implementation of the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015).

Let me turn now to Iran's ballistic missile launches. In his recent report (S/2017/515), the Secretary-General called upon Iran to avoid such ballistic missile launches that have the potential to increase tensions. Japan believes that such launches as conducted by Iran in January are inconsistent with resolution 2231 (2015). As other delegations have already noted today, we are concerned by the ballistic missile launches, which can be destabilizing for the delicate situation in the Middle East.

On that note, we should recall the JCPOA's enormous potential to contribute to peace and security in the Middle East. In March, the Permanent Representative of Iran circulated a letter to the Council expressing Iran's willingness to take effective measures to end the crisis in Syria, including via humanitarian assistance. Iran can and should play a constructive role in peace and stability in the region, particularly in Syria and Yemen, and in the international community

more generally. We hope that Iran will implement the commitments outlined in its March letter.

Japan welcomes the steady implementation of JCPOA parties' nuclear-related commitments and commends the critical role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) critical role in verifying and monitoring those commitments. We underscore that Iran's application of the additional protocol and the transparency measures is key not only for full implementation of the JCPOA, but also for regional confidence-building. Japan will continue to support the independent and objective work of the IAEA.

One and a half years after the adoption of the JCPOA in January 2016, the uniqueness of the format of resolution 2231 (2015) has become increasingly clear. The format does not include a subsidiary body, but requires extensive data collection, analysis and reporting by the Secretariat. Given those challenges, Japan commends the Secretariat's efforts in preparing six-month reports with a high degree of independence, objectivity and expertise. In the recent report of the Secretary-General, we see some pending issues on which the Secretariat will need to update the Council in future reports. Given the particular challenges of data collection under resolution 2231 (2015), we encourage the Secretariat to utilize such tools as the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) and the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009), concerning Somalia and Eritrea, to obtain relevant information. An objective and credible report will allow the Council to fully understand the situation and take appropriate action.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): First of all, I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Feltman, Ambassador Cardi and Ambassador Vale de Almeida for their engagement and briefings this afternoon.

We see the agreement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as a milestone that represents an important example of dispute resolution conflict prevention. Its continued implementation benefits international peace and security and stability in the region.

There are encouraging developments and there are issues of concern. We should be open about both. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/515), which shows that the implementation of the JCPOA continues to be broadly in line with expectations. That the procurement channel is working according to plan is encouraging, as is Iran's general compliance with its nuclear-related obligations — as evidenced by reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is important that the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to provisionally apply the additional protocol to its Safeguards Agreement. In addition, we look forward to Iran's early ratification of the additional protocol. In spite of the general positive picture, I would like to mention three areas that remain of concern.

First of all, we have previously expressed our concern over ballistic missile test, which are inconsistent with resolution 2231 (2015).

Secondly, the seizure of arms, apparently originating in Iran, in contravention of the measures in resolution 2231 (2015), is deeply disturbing. Unless exempted, any transfer of arms to and from Iran requires the authorization of the Council. We will carefully future reports from the Secretary-General relating to confiscated material as more information becomes available.

Finally, like others, we reiterate our concern over the continued contraventions of the travel ban. It is important that Member States provide to the Secretary-General all the information necessary to carry out the reporting requirements set out in the resolution. We call on the Government of Iran to formally respond to allegations as identified in the Secretary-General's report. The July 2016 agreement of the JCPOA underscored the power of dialogue to make progress in non-proliferation. However, reaping the full benefits of the agreement will require the long-term commitment of all sides. We echo the call of the Secretary-General for all States to act in accordance with and in support of the agreement and to avoid provocative rhetoric or action. Mutual trust is essential for this historic agreement to succeed.

Ms. Guadey (Ethiopia): I would like to start by thanking Under-Secretary-General Feltman; the Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), Ambassador Cardi; and the observer of the European Union, Ambassador Vale de Almeida, for their briefings on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

We have noted from the reports before us today (S/2017/495 and S/2017/537) that the International Atomic Energy Agency continued verification and monitoring of the implementation of the nuclear-

related commitments. The continued implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as well as the fact that the Secretary-General and his predecessor have not received any reports on the supply, transfer or exports of nuclear and dual-use items, materials, equipment, goods and technology to Iran, is encouraging.

We have noted that five out of the 10 additional proposal submitted to the procurement channel were approved, which indicates that the procurement channel continued to work very well. In that regard, we welcome reports on the growing confidence by Member States and the procurement channel. We also welcomed the smooth cooperation between the Security Council and the Joint Commission as indicated in third six-month report of the Facilitator on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). The planned outreach activities concerning the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) by the Facilitator during the second part of his mandate, as well as the continued engagement by the Procurement Working Group, is commendable. Such activities contribute to fostering awareness, as well as the enhanced participation of Member States in the activities set forth in paragraph 2 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015).

As we have stated in our previous meetings on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), the JCPOA participating countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, deserve to be commended for demonstrating strong commitment under the Plan of Action. Nevertheless, we also recognize that challenges and difficulties, including the ones included in the report, may be encountered in the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). It is therefore important that the JCPOA participants continue to address those challenges and contribute to the full implementation of the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015) so as to bring the issue to a satisfactory conclusion. In that regard, we join the Secretary-General in welcoming the commitment by the JCPOA participants to its full and effective implementation in April.

With regard to the launching of ballistic missiles, we reiterate our previous position that such launches will impact the implementation of the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015). We concur with the Facilitator that all parties need to continue to maintain an attitude conducive to building trust and continue to implement the terms of the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015). We therefore join the call by the Secretary-General in his report on the Islamic Republic of Iran to avoid ballistic-missile launches, as they have the potential to increase tensions. We note with concern the findings in the report of the Secretary-General in connection with the arms shipment from the Islamic Republic of Iran bound for Somalia and subsequently seized by France, because such actions entail regional consequences.

Mr. Ciss (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to thank the Bolivian presidency for taking the initiative to convene this meeting on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). My thanks also go to Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; Mr. João Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations; and Ambassador Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy and Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), for their respective briefings.

In having adopted the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action through the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015) on 20 July 2015, the Security Council sealed the nuclear agreement with Iran, which was the culmination of 12 Years of historic diplomatic efforts on the part of the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, the People's Republic of China, the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The third report (S/2017/515) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), which we are considering today and has been submitted pursuant to the provisions of annex B of the resolution, comprehensively sets forth the terms linked to the nuclear issue, ballistic missiles, travel bans and assets freezes, as well as those relating to fostering the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

Concerning the provisions related to the nuclear issue, the report clearly states that the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to respect its commitments, as underscored in the most recent reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency on its verification and monitoring activities in that country, as well as Iran's follow-up of the implementation of its commitments linked to the nuclear issue within the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Moreover, we note with satisfaction that Iran will continue to permit the International Atomic Energy Agency the use of online enrichment measurement and electronic seals,

which communicate their status within nuclear sites to Agency inspectors and facilitate automated collection of Agency measurement recordings registered by installed measurement devices.

With regard to the procurement channel, we welcome the cooperation between the Security Council and the Joint Commission, which was established within the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as has been exemplified by the various forms of notification in connection with provisions, sales or transfers concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The interface thereby set up between the members of the Security Council and the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is functioning well, thus ensuring visibility, inclusivity and transparency. Furthermore, efforts by the Secretariat and the Facilitator within the framework of the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), in particular concerning practical information provided through the procurement channel, deserve our full support and cooperation.

Accordingly, thanks to a wealth of information and outreach, Member States have access to the information necessary not only to properly fulfil their commitments, but also to ensure follow-up on violations of resolution 2231 (2015), the procurement channel, confidentiality and notifications, as well as issues of transparency and the dissemination of information.

The launch of a ballistic missile by Iran on 27 January was the subject of a number of Security Council meetings, within the "2231 format", without our having been able reach an agreement as to whether that action constituted a violation of the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015). Nevertheless, the Senegalese delegation calls on the various parties to show the necessary restraint so as to diffuse tensions in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the Senegalese delegation believes that the biannual report on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) is overall positive and would like to encourage the Facilitator, as well as all stakeholders concerned by Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and the States Members of the United Nations, to persevere in that direction.

Mr. Wilson (United Kingdom): I thank Jeffrey Feltman and João Vale de Almeida for sharing their analyses with the Security Council today.

I am glad that my last open meeting in the Council is focusing on one of the most important diplomatic achievements in recent memory.

As the third report (S/2017/515) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) shows, at its core, this is a diplomatic achievement that endures. Earlier this month, the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed Iran's continued full compliance with its nuclear-related commitments. Iran's total stockpile of uranium remains within agreed limits, and Iran has continued to permit and facilitate monitoring of its nuclear sites.

I reiterate in this Chamber today the United Kingdom's commitment to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and our support for its full and equitable implementation.

To ensure the deal's continued success, all parties must fully uphold their commitments and improve mutual trust and cooperation across a full range of issues. Sadly, the latest report of the Secretary-General highlights some less than positive issues, which must be addressed in relation to the provisions of annex B as set out in resolution 2231 (2015).

The first of those relates to the 29 January launch by Iran of a Khorramshahr medium-range ballistic missile. Since we have already had several Council meetings on this important issue and further consideration in the "2231 format" of the Council, I will not dwell on it, but just for the sake of clarity I want to reiterate our position that this launch was inconsistent with the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015). We reiterate, too, the Secretary-General's call on Iran to refrain from any future launches that contribute to regional instability.

We are also concerned by the continued reported violations of restrictions prohibiting conventional arms transfers, as set out in the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2017/515), including new evidence of an attempted arms shipment from Iran to Somalia. Furthermore, the widespread reports of multiple violations of travel-ban provisions, including new infringements by Major General Qasem Soleimani, are particularly worrying given the regional sensitivities. So putting all these issues together, it is clear that these activities are having a detrimental impact on regional security. Yes, we agree with Iran that the biggest threat to the region is a shared threat to us all. We all need

to combat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and defeat terrorism.

Yes, we want the international community to work with Iran, to encourage it to play a more transparent and constructive role in regional affairs. But we cannot turn a blind eye to activities undertaken by Iran that violate Security Council resolutions and sponsor proxy forces in regional conflicts. This further complicates efforts to reach peaceful settlements and undermines Iran's future prosperity and security.

Finally, it is important that we remember the inherent reciprocity of the JCPOA, so we encourage all Member States and parties to the agreement to uphold their commitments, including ensuring that the Iranian people gain further tangible benefits from sanctions relief. We are encouraged by the progress being made to promote trade and investment opportunities in Iran, and we hope that the next six months will build on these successes.

Full implementation of the provisions of resolution 2231 (2015) by all parties is the only way to ensure the continued success of this important deal.

As this is my last meeting in the open Chamber, I also wanted to say a very brief word of thanks to the interpreters for making me comprehensible in six languages. It is not easy; my aunt used to do it. Secondly, I thank all Council members for the cooperation that they have shown me and for the work that they do in what is a massively important institution that is very, very important for the most vulnerable people on this planet.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish the representative of the United Kingdom all the best in future.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): It is hard to be the next speaker at this emotional moment.

Italy believes that the international community should continue to take every action to ensure that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) remains a positive element in the global effort against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, we believe in the importance of the full and thorough implementation of resolution 2231 (2015). Good-faith implementation of both the JCPOA and resolution 2231 (2015) will benefit regional security.

In this perspective, we appreciate the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/515) for both its reference to the importance of the JCPOA and its compliance with the relevant provisions of resolution 2231 (2015). We agree with the assessment by the Secretary-General that the JCPOA is an achievement of multilateral diplomacy from which all participants should benefit. We also share his view that the JCPOA provides an example of the benefits of diplomacy leading to the reduction of tension among States. I wish to reiterate the Secretary-General's call for all Member States and other relevant organizations to support the implementation of this agreement.

The robust and comprehensive structure and the solid verification mechanism of the JCPOA are crucial to upholding mutual trust and the credibility of the Plan. Therefore Italy will continue to support the International Atomic Energy Agency in its work relating to the JCPOA.

Italy commends the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for her leadership in coordinating the Joint Commission established by the JCPOA. We encourage all stakeholders to continue to promptly address and resolve any possible issues through dialogue by exploring the relevant mechanism set up by the JCPOA. The Security Council also plays a key role within its competencies and responsibility, and my country will continue to do its part, also in its capacity as Security Council Facilitator, to foster the smooth implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Bolivia wishes at the outset to thank Mr. Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, Head of the European Union delegation to the United Nations; and Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi and his team, as Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

Bolivia shares in the satisfaction expressed by the Secretary-General in his third report on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/515) at the efforts and commitments of the States involved in the implementation of this historic agreement.

Bolivia reaffirms its commitment to the diplomatic triumph represented by the adoption of the resolution, which endorsed the Joint Competitive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and highlighted the compulsory nature of its implementation by the parties as well as their commitments. We believe that the progress made in this area represents an important milestone in joint diplomatic actions in the quest for horizontal, transparent dialogue in good faith and with reciprocity.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, on 15 January, verified that the Islamic Republic of Iran had removed all excess centrifuges and infrastructure from the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant and their transfer to storage at the Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant under continuous Agency monitoring, in compliance with the agreed timeline. My delegation sees this as a clear sign of the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the fulfilment of the commitments made under the JCPOA.

We also wish to highlight the efforts of the procurement channel, in accordance with the JCPOA, which processes the transfer by States of nuclear or dual-use goods, technologies and/or related services to the Islamic Republic of Iran. These activities, along with periodic reporting, strengthen transparency as regards the proper implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) and the activities set out in its annex B.

As on a previous occasion, my delegation expresses its concern at the fact that the report contains no reference to annex A. We believe that both annexes, A and B, are integral and complementary parts that are required for the comprehensive implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

Finally, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as a pacifist State, reaffirms its commitments in the framework of respect for the principles of non-interference and respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States. In this particular case, I wish to stress that politicization, provocative rhetoric and zero-sum logic are completely contrary to and incompatible with diplomatic means and purposes, multilateralism and what has been agreed upon on the issue that brings us together this afternoon.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Germany.

Mr. Braun (Germany): Germany thanks Ambassador Peter Wilson for years of excellent cooperation and wishes him Godspeed in his new functions on the continent of Europe. Germany would also like to thank the Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General Feltman for the third report on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2017/515).

Allow me to make three brief points.

First, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) endorsed by resolution 2231 (2015) is an outstanding success of diplomacy in an extremely volatile region. It is a well-thought-out agreement that builds on and strengthens the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

One and a half years into JCPOA implementation, there is no doubt the deal as such is working. All participants are keeping their commitments and the deal has clearly promoted security and stability in the region. But all parties to the agreement must continue adhering to the JCPOA for the full duration, if the deal is to fulfil its long-term objectives. What matters most is that all participants continue to strictly implement the deal in all its aspects.

Secondly, to date the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has verified, in six reports, that Iran is abiding by its nuclear-related commitment. Going ahead, verification and monitoring by the IAEA will remain essential to re-establishing trust and confidence and to reassure the world that Iran's nuclear programme serves exclusively peaceful purposes. The easing of sanctions resulted in economic consolidation and growth in Iran's gross domestic product. The full and comprehensive implementation of the JCPOA provides a basis for this trend to continue. Germany remains committed to the goal of fully re-establishing economic ties with Iran to the benefit of all parties concerned.

Thirdly, equally important for the building of mutual trust and confidence is the full implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) itself. Germany remains particularly concerned by Iran's missile programme. While the ballistic missile test conducted by Iran in January did not violate the JCPOA, we regard such tests as inconsistent with resolution 2231 (2015). We call upon Iran to refrain from any activities that exacerbate tensions and deepen mistrust. We urge Iran to play a constructive role in the region and to contribute to lasting political solutions.

In conclusion, the Vienna agreement and resolution 2231 (2015) are a victory for the principles of the United Nations. The JCPOA negotiations showed the power of persistent multilateral diplomacy in addressing major international challenges. Germany is proud of its involvement in the JCPOA and remains firmly committed to its continued and full implementation.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7991

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7991st meeting
Thursday, 29 June 2017, 5.50 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Llorentty Soliz	(Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Members:	China	Mr. Zhang Dianbin
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2017/478)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-18848 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 5.50 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2017/478)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Mali to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/558, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/478, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2364 (2017).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the unanimous adoption today of resolution 2364 (2017), which renews the mandate of the peacekeepers in Mali for one year. France also welcomes the constructive negotiations among the members of the Security Council that led to this important result. With the unanimous adoption of this essential text, the Security Council confirms its resolute commitment and unity with Mali in support of the country and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). That is an essential point.

Resolution 2364 (2017) strengthens the robust mandate given to MINUSMA by resolution 2295 (2016) in support of the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. It is also in line with the new strategic partnership that the United Nations intends to establish with African States and African organizations. Indeed, resolution 2364 (2017) includes two major advances in this respect.

First, the Security Council reaffirms and outlines peacekeeper support for the redeployment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces. Through the resolution, the Security Council is strengthening the logistical and operational support that MINUSMA must provide to the redeployment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces throughout the territory of the country while respecting the Malian Peace Agreement. This is crucial. It therefore sets clear lines of action for MINUSMA to help restore security in Malian territory, particularly in the north and the centre of the country, and to fill the security gap that terrorist groups are known to benefit from. The redeployment of Malian Defence and Security Forces must also facilitate the implementation by MINUSMA of its own mandate. It must therefore contribute to the safety of peacekeepers in Mali, to whom France wishes once again to pay a solemn homage.

Secondly, the Security Council strengthens cooperation between the peacekeepers, the new joint force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) and the French forces. In the spirit of the new strategic partnership between the United Nations and Africa, which I mentioned previously, the Security Council is establishing closer cooperation among MINUSMA, the new G-5 Sahel joint force, for whose deployment the Council expressed support in resolution 2359 (2017), adopted here a few days ago, and the French forces of Operation Barkhane. The Security Council is strengthening the complementarity among those forces on the ground in accordance with their respective mandates. The work of the G-5 Sahel joint force in particular, deployed in the five Sahel States, will help to secure the Sahel region from terrorist groups. It will therefore facilitate MINUSMA's implementation of its mandate as well as the safety of peacekeepers.

The Security Council has assumed its responsibilities. It now falls to the Secretariat, with the support of Member States and troop- and equipment-contributing countries, to give MINUSMA the logistical and human resources that will enable it to fulfil its mandate even better.

Lastly, I wish to stress how the important it is for the signatory parties to accelerate the implementation of the Peace Agreement as well as the role assigned to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in that regard. Moreover, resolution 2364 (2017) recalls the Council's readiness to consider sanctions against persons who would impede the implementation of the Agreement.

In resolution 2364 (2017), the Security Council is showing its determination to support the restoration of lasting peace in Mali. It also shows the Council's determination to support the efforts of Mali and the States of the Sahel region to reduce the terrorist threat. Finally, it shows the Council's determination to establish a strategic partnership among the United Nations, African States and African peace and security organizations in which the peacekeepers and forces of African States mutually support one another.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Uruguay voted in favour of resolution 2364 (2017), which renews the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). However, Uruguay wishes to express its concern about two aspects that I wish to discuss in detail. One aspect is procedural, the other is substantive.

With respect to the procedural issue, I wish to point out that the draft resolution did not undergo a silence procedure. The silence procedure is of particular importance in the negotiation process for Security Council draft resolutions. It is a standard practice of the Security Council, and therefore codifying it and giving it a framework is one of the topics discussed in the negotiation process of the new 507 Note by the President of the Security Council.

With regard to substantive issues, Uruguay was one of the first countries to sign onto the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians, which aim to address the internal challenges that missions face and which compel the entire peacekeeping system to reflect on ways to improve, to become more efficient and effective in their tasks and, above all, to avoid a breakdown in adequate mission functioning.

Without wishing to refer to a particular peacekeeping operation, since it is a systemic problem, I would like to recall that we have been receiving reports from the Secretariat on shortcomings in various missions in terms of their functioning. On that point, Uruguay believes — and has expressed as much on many occasions — that the peacekeeping personnel deployed are one of the fundamental actors, if not the sole ones, in the implementation of operations. As a result, the existence of undeclared national restrictions, the absence of effective command and control, the refusal to obey orders, the failure to respond to attacks against civilians and a lack of equipment can negatively affect the shared responsibility of effectively implementing mandates.

In the very positive and beneficial meeting that the Council held with peacekeeping mission Force Commanders nearly a month ago (see S/PV.7947), many of those shortcomings were highlighted. In the original text circulated by the penholder, in paragraph 32 the Secretary-General was requested to report on those aspects so as to be able to find out the level of implementation of commitments by contingents and police forces.

Although not all peacekeeping operations are the same, and each has its own specificities, it is also good for the Security Council to be consistent and coherent when approving mandates, including with regard to patterns and guidelines of a systemic nature. That was the nature of paragraph 32 as originally proposed. A paragraph of identical tone was approved for the latest renewal of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Unfortunately, however, with regard to MINUSMA, which operates in a tremendously hostile environment, which has significant vulnerabilities and which often we refer to as the most dangerous peacekeeping mission in the world, there are still loose ends that, if resolved, would have made have given greater consistency to the mandate of peacekeeping missions, and to MINUSMA in particular, making it more effective in its functioning and also in terms of protecting civilians. Therefore, Uruguay would have preferred the drafting to be maintained in today's resolution and would like it to be included in future mandate approvals in order to improve the efficiency and accountability of peacekeeping operations.

In conclusion, we think it is relevant to recognize the work of the peacekeepers deployed on the ground and, in this case especially, of MINUSMA, for their generous contribution to international peace and security.

Mr. Ciss (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): Senegal welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2364 (2017), which extends the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) until 30 June 2018. My country also welcomes the adoption by the Government of Mali of a comprehensive plan to re-establish the presence of the State in central Mali and throughout the entire territory of the country.

It is in that spirit that Senegal welcomes the mandate renewal of MINUSMA, which reaffirms in particular support for the Government of Mali and for the redeployment of Malian armed forces across the territory, making it possible to bolster security throughout Mali in general, and in central Mali in particular, where Senegal, as all are aware, will continue to be involved through the deployment of its Rapid Reaction Force. That is one of the newer expressions of the solidarity of the people and the Government of Senegal to the brotherly people of Mali, a commitment proven early on, since the very beginning of the crisis, by the presence of the Senegalese forces among African troops.

In conclusion, my country would like to pay renewed and deserved tribute to MINUSMA and to all the troop-contributing countries for the great sacrifices they have made on behalf of the force as a way of assisting the people of Mali with a view to re-establishing its sovereignty over the entire territory.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mali.

Mr. Konfourou (Mali) (*spoke in French*): I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to speak on the occasion of the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2364 (2017), which renews the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) for an additional year.

At the outset, I welcome the constructive negotiations that have led to this result. And, in that regard, I would like to convey to the members of the Council the sincere gratitude of His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, the Government and the people of Mali for this important decision, which the Council just made unanimously. I also wish to thank Secretary-General António Guterres and all the women and men of MINUSMA for their daily commitment and sacrifice alongside the people of Mali in their quest for peace, stability and development.

The resolution the Council just adopted is important in more ways than one. Indeed, in deciding to extend the mandate of MINUSMA for another year, that is, until 30 June 2018, the Security Council reaffirms the support of the international community for the peace process in Mali, with full respect for the sovereignty, national unity, territorial integrity and the unity and secular nature of the State of Mali.

In taking a decision to renew the proactive and robust stance of MINUSMA's mandate, the Security Council is responding to a pressing request from the Government of Mali, supported by the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, to consider the particularly hostile and dangerous environment in which peacekeepers are deployed. This robust mandate gives MINUSMA the means to, first, protect and defend itself against hostile forces and to carry out its primary task of protecting civilian populations in Mali.

Giving a mandate that is appropriate to the situation is one thing; equipping MINUSMA with the necessary material, financial and human resources is another. The Government of Mali strongly welcomes the strengthening of the operational capacities of MINUSMA, allowing it to carry out its mandate fully and effectively. In that regard, the conclusions of the MINUSMA force generation conference held on 22 and 23 May 2017 under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General provide hope that this challenge will soon be overcome. I would like to commend the troop-contributing countries that made pledges on that occasion. I hope that those pledges will soon be realized.

Equally important is the strengthening of cooperation between MINUSMA and the Malian Defence and Security Forces. In particular, I would like to highlight the need and urgency of supporting the Malian Defence and Security Forces in the daily fight against terrorism on the ground, without waiting for the completion of their rebuilding process. Terrorist forces will not wait until the end of that process. I welcome

the fact that this central issue is taken into account in resolution 2364 (2017).

Similarly, the Government of Mali welcomes the fact that the new MINUSMA mandate reflects the truly important issue of restoring the authority of the State of Mali throughout the territory, in particular the return of the administration and the defence and security forces in all regions of the north, including in Kidal. The Government welcomes the decisive support for the effective implementation of the cantonnement process, of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and of security sector reform in Mali.

For our part, I can assure the members of the Security Council that, under the authority of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, the Government will continue with its diligent implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, emanating from the Algiers process. To that end, Bamako recently hosted a day for assessing theimplementation of the Agreement, under the presence of the Prime Minister and Head of Government, on Friday, 23 June. All Malian actors in the peace process took part, including the signatory movements, the High-Representative of the President of the Republic and civil society for the implementation of the Agreement.

One of the major conclusions of that meeting was that the three parties — the Government, the Platform and the Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad — led by the High-Representative of the President, accepted the adoption of a realistic consensual calendar for the restoration of the administration and the Malian defence and security forces to Kidal as soon as possible. At the same time, the Government will continue its implementation of the Agreement in terms of providing basic social services and peace dividends to the affected populations, and in particular will seek to uphold human rights. Sustained attention will be given to the situation in the centre of the country.

Members will have noted that the Mali crisis has regional and international dimensions also. That is the very purpose of the establishment of the joint force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5), the deployment of which was approved by the Security Council through resolution 2359 (2017), with a mandate to fight terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking. I would like to call for greater, more steadfast support from our bilateral and multilateral partners with a view to mobilizing the necessary resources for the effective functioning of thae joint force. On that issue an emergency summit of the Heads of State of the G-5 Sahel, with the participation of the President of the French Republic, is scheduled for 2 July in Bamako.

In conclusion, I want to thank the French delegation, under the leadership of my dear friend Ambassador Delattre, for initiating and leading the negotiations on resolution 2364 (2017). I would also like to thank all members of the Security Council for their sincere support in its adoption. Likewise, I thank each one for providing such valuable support. I reiterate the infinite gratitude of the people and the Government of Mali to the Secretary-General, to his Special Representative for Mali and to all MINUSMA personnel, as well as to the troop-contributing countries, the French forces of Operation Barkhane, the European Union Military Training Mission and to the members of the Agreement Monitoring Committee, lead by Algeria, for the steadfast and multidimensional support to the peace and stabilization process in our country. Finally, I want to reiterate the tribute paid by the people of Mali to the memory of all victims, both civilian and military, Malian and foreign, who have fallen in the fields of glory in Mali.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7992

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7992nd meeting
Friday, 30 June 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Llorentty Soliz	(Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Members:	China	Mr. Sun Lei
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Woldegerima
	France	Mrs. Gueguen
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Tachco
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-18842 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of international peace and security

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/561, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Japan.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2365 (2017).

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Bolivia welcomes the Security Council's unanimous adoption today of resolution 2365 (2017), on mine action, which has been one of the goals of the Bolivian presidency of the Council this month. The resolution just adopted represents is an important precedent, since it is the first time that the Security Council has adopted a resolution on the subject. This is a significant step forward on the issue, whose basis rests on the presidential statements of 30 August 1996 (S/PRST/1996/37) and 19 November 2003 (S/PRST/2003/22) and the conventions signed and ratified by a majority of Member States over the past 20 years, such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

The resolution's principal aim is to point out and define the threat that those objects pose to the security and physical integrity, indeed the lives, of civilian populations, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel and all who work in conflict zones. It also calls on all parties to armed conflicts to immediately put an end forever to the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines, the explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices and urges them to protect local populations from all the problems created by such devices. It also calls on all Member States to comply with their various international obligations with regard to mine action.

In considering the mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions, the Security Council regularly requests reports on the mitigation of threats posed by dangerous explosives such as anti-personnel mines, the explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices. Bolivia firmly believes that mitigating such threats is essential to ensuring the success of missions and to promoting peacebuilding and stabilization efforts in countries in conflict. Over the past few years mitigation efforts have expanded from anti-personnel mines to the explosive remnants of war and, more recently, to the emerging threat of improvised explosive devices. It is important to emphasize mitigation, including the five pillars of mine action — risk education, victim assistance, weapons and ammunition management, stockpile destruction and the promotion and strengthening of national capacities and institutional support.

In addition to the five pillars, we note the increasingly important link between mine action and other substantive areas, such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the reform of the security sector. We also promote the establishment of effective governance and the rule of law. In that connection, we welcome the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service as one of the key players mitigating the risk of such explosives. It is deployed in peacekeeping missions and special political missions at the request of the Security Council and heeds requests for assistance from affected States.

Mine action affects not only the security of those immediately exposed to such threats but also contributes significantly to maintaining peace and bolstering stability. Those activities supplement relevant international conventions. The clearest example is the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,

also known as the Ottawa Convention. Bolivia is a signatory to that Convention and has ratified it. We call for the universalization of the Ottawa Convention and all other mine-action conventions through accession by all Member States. We also ask that all Member States redouble their efforts to honour their international commitments.

Finally, Bolivia firmly believes that resolution 2365 (2017), adopted today, will serve as a precedent in recognizing the threat posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices, as well as the importance of mine action in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Bolivia thanks the members of the Security Council for their participation and contributions.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I shall now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): Japan would like to express its high respect for Bolivia's tenacious efforts. We value the fact that Security Council members have been able to discuss this important matter seriously and extensively. Resolution 2365 (2017), adopted unanimously today, clearly recognizes that the growing threat posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices undermines international peace and stability. I hope that it will provide additional guidance to stakeholders, including Member States, to allow them to move forward.

Japan has long placed mine-action assistance among its top diplomatic priorities. On 28 June, Japan signed an exchange note with Colombia, providing $9 million of grant aid in support of the Government's demining efforts through equipment and technical expertise. Japan is determined to continue to play a leading role in mine action, in collaboration with other stakeholders, and sincerely hopes that resolution 2365 (2017), which Japan co-sponsored, can, along with other international instruments, contribute to our primary goal, namely, to realize a landmine-free world.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I thank you, Mr. President, and Bolivia for your efforts to raise the profile of this important issue by putting mine action on the Security Council's agenda. That has led to the adoption today of resolution 2365 (2017) — the first on mine action — which we welcome.

As we stated during the open debate on 13 June (see S/PV.7966), the terrible legacy of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the communities where they are found cannot be overstated. Sweden fully shares the concerns expressed regarding the serious post-conflict humanitarian problems caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war. It is essential that we step up our efforts to minimize the occurrence, effects and risks from that threat. Sweden underlines the obligation of all States to respect, and ensure respect for, international humanitarian law.

Sweden is a State party to all the relevant conventions banning or regulating the use of non-controllable mines, anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions and the handling of the explosive remnants of war. We believe that the full implementation of those conventions is the most effective means for countering the risks associated with the use of such weapons.

We remain firmly committed to the international frameworks put in place to end the scourge of the explosive remnants of war. We will continue to work for their full universalization and urge others to join us in that endeavour.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I join others in congratulating you, Mr. President, and your delegation for bringing this item to the attention of the Security Council, and in particular for guiding the process that led to the adoption of resolution 2365 (2017) — for your transparency and inclusiveness and for providing early drafts of the text — which allowed all delegations to share their observations and contribute to the negotiation process. I hope to see many more such matters conducted in a similar fashion in the Council.

My delegation voted in favour of resolution 2365 (2017), given the matter's bearing upon the maintenance of international peace and security. Uruguay emphatically condemns the use of anti-personnel mines and other weapons that cause indiscriminate damage to large numbers of civilian victims by any actor and under any circumstance. We also call for their prohibition and elimination.

We would have liked the resolution just adopted to have included language referring to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction — also known as the Ottawa Convention — and, more specifically, to have called

for its universalization with a view to ensuring its full implementation. Nevertheless, despite the efforts of some delegations, that was not possible. Uruguay, like all members of the Ottawa Convention, is firmly committed to its full implementation and believes that its universalization is of the utmost importance. Promoting its universalization is a priority for addressing the danger that such weapons pose to the international community. There are approximately 30 countries that have not yet acceded to the Convention, some of which are major players in the international arena. Uruguay urges all States that have not yet signed the Convention — especially those that manufacture, sell and possess such weapons — to do so without delay. We also encourage all Member States to honour all the relevant international obligations and keep their commitments under international law and international humanitarian law.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, for your excellent leadership during the month of June. It has been a very busy month and a very productive presidency. We look forward to China's presidency in July.

We thank the Bolivian presidency for promoting the adoption of resolution 2365 (2017) under the very relevant topic of mine action. We think that the Security Council should underpin and reinforce mine action as an activity that makes a difference on the ground, thereby mitigating and eventually eliminating the threat that mines, explosive remnants of war and other unexploded ordnance pose to civilians.

Peace without mine action is incomplete peace. That is a quote from the statement made by Secretary-General António Guterres on the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. We agree with that statement and consider mine action to be a multifaceted activity that requires a comprehensive approach. The disarmament, humanitarian and development aspects of mine action need to be reinforced. Bringing stability to areas of crisis, providing humanitarian assistance to affected populations and contributing to the attainment of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals should all serve as the central goals of our common effort in mine action activities. We believe that the text we adopted today meets most of those requirements.

As Chair of the Mine Action Support Group for the period 2016-2017 and as an active member of the Ottawa and Oslo Conventions, Italy is committed to their full implementation and attaches the utmost importance to their universalization. Advocacy for the universalization of the Ottawa and Oslo Conventions is a key activity in making a difference on the ground. In that regard, we would have liked to see more ground covered by the Council in the resolution, including references to cluster munitions, which are ammunition that, if they fail to explode on impact, lie silent in the ground and remain a threat for generations to come.

Lastly, a stronger reference to international humanitarian law and to humanitarian principles would have reinforced the document. However, we are thankful for what emerged, and we commend the Bolivian presidency for bringing that very important topic to the Council for the very first time. We also thank you, Mr. President, for your flexibility, which enabled the adoption of today's important resolution.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): My delegation voted in favour of resolution 2365 (2017), as it believes in the importance of mine action in maintaining international peace and security. I thank the delegation of Bolivia for bringing this important topic to the attention of the Security Council and for demonstrating openness during the negotiations that led to the adoption of resolution 2365 (2017).

Because it calls for cooperation among States, the United Nations and other actors, including civil society, and because it covers humanitarian and sustainable development issues, resolution 2365 (2017) provides opportunities for, in particular, countries affected by the presence of land mines, the explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices to address such challenges for the benefit of the people and communities concerned. As a major contributor of troops to peacekeeping operations, Senegal also welcomes the fact that the resolution reiterates the threat posed by improvised explosive devices to peacekeepers, who increasingly operate in volatile and unpredictable environments.

As a State party to the Ottawa Convention, my country has destroyed all of its anti-personnel mine stockpiles, in compliance with its international obligations, and will continue to raise awareness on the issue by working side by side with its international partners, in particular the 161 other States party to the Convention, in an effort to ensure that that legally binding international instrument becomes universal,

as it is vital to the protection and dignity of civilians. In the light of the growing number of asymmetrical threats, we call for a surge in political will — including from countries that manufacture such weapons — with a view to limiting or completely eliminating explosive weapons, which pose a genuine threat to international peace and security. We hope that the adoption of resolution 2365 (2017) is just the first step on the path to even more voluntary and robust mine action measures.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7993

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7993rd meeting
Friday, 30 June 2017, 10.30 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Llorentty Solíz	(Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Members:	China	Mr. Zhang Dianbin
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Woldegerima
	France	Mrs. Gueguen
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Sweden	Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Tachco
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-19191 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"As the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) completes its mandate on 30 June 2017, the Security Council commends the remarkable achievements made by Côte d'Ivoire since 2004.

"The Security Council takes note of the oral report delivered by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire at the 7957th meeting of the Security Council, held on 2 June 2017, entitled "The situation in Côte d'Ivoire", including the assessments, lessons learned and the recommendations contained therein. The Security Council expresses its intention to take them into account in the framework of its ongoing work to enhance the overall effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping.

"Recalling its resolution 2284 (2016), the Security Council welcomes the notable progress made by Côte d'Ivoire to consolidate lasting peace and stability, as well as economic prosperity. It underlines the improvements in strengthening national reconciliation and social cohesion, as well as the overall security and humanitarian situation, and progress on respect for human rights, which play crucial roles in promoting peace and stability.

"The Security Council also welcomes the successful presidential and legislative elections, conducted respectively in 2015 and 2016, which have helped to consolidate Côte d'Ivoire's democratic institutions. The Security Council further welcomes the constitutional referendum held in 2016.

"The Security Council recognizes the important contribution of UNOCI in promoting peace, stability and development in Côte d'Ivoire throughout its 13 years of existence. The Security Council expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Operation and the United Nations country team, under the leadership of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General. The Security Council commends the contribution of troop- and police-contributing countries and donors to UNOCI, and welcomes the support provided by the French forces. It welcomes the good cooperation between UNOCI and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, as well as with bilateral partners, regional and international organizations.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to undertake within a year, and within existing resources, a comprehensive study of the role of UNOCI in the settlement of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire since its establishment, taking into account the contributions of political mediation, the sanctions regime, as well as other relevant factors as appropriate, that allowed for the successful completion of UNOCI's mandate. The Security Council looks forward to the results of this study, including further lessons learned and recommendations, and expresses its intention to consider options for taking them into account in the context of its ongoing work to enhance the overall effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping.

"The Security Council recalls the primary responsibility of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for ensuring peace, stability and the protection of civilians in Côte d'Ivoire. It welcomes the commitment of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to stability in the region and to countering terrorism and violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism. It also welcomes the commitment of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to fight against all forms of transnational organized crime. It stresses the importance for Côte d'Ivoire's long-term stability of ensuring a peaceful, credible and transparent electoral process in 2020.

"The Security Council stresses that there is important work ahead to further advance peace and justice and to secure equitable prosperity for the benefit of all Ivorians. It underlines the importance of action by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to tackle the remaining challenges in this regard,

supported as appropriate by the United Nations country team and the international community.

"The Security Council stresses the need for continued progress, following UNOCI's withdrawal, in the fight against impunity, the advancement of national reconciliation and social cohesion, the full and equal participation of women in Government and public institutions, the reform of the security sector, the promotion and protection of human rights, including through the work conducted by the National Human Rights Commission, as well as the management of refugee returns, statelessness and land tenure.

"Taking note of recent incidents involving members of the security forces, as well as former combatants, the Security Council reaffirms in particular the necessity to prioritize without delay and accelerate the complete implementation of its national security sector reform strategy in order to further strengthen the professionalization and cohesion of the national security services and to enhance confidence within and between the security forces and the population. The Security Council also stresses the importance of accelerating and consolidating efforts to develop and implement sustainable reintegration opportunities for former Ivorian combatants, as well as of continuing efforts to improve the monitoring and management of weapons in order to reduce the number of illicit weapons in circulation. The Security Council underlines the crucial contribution of security sector reform to the stability of the country, as well as to continued progress in security, national reconciliation and social cohesion.

"The Security Council notes that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has indicated that the United Nations will continue to be an important partner in the next phase of the development of the country. The departure of UNOCI does not mark the end of the support of the United Nations to sustaining peace in Côte d'Ivoire. The Security Council therefore welcomes the ongoing engagement of the Secretary-General and United Nations country team in support of the efforts of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire as it seeks to preserve and consolidate its peacebuilding gains and in order to promote sustainable development, the rule of law and the strengthening of human rights protections and institutions, as well as to tackle other remaining challenges related to security and development. The Security Council recalls in this regard the transition plan presented by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, UNOCI and the United Nations country team, which outlines programmes aimed at contributing to tackling remaining challenges faced by the country. The Security Council encourages the international community, including bilateral and multilateral donors, to assist with the activities of the country team, including by considering providing funding to this transition plan.

"The Security Council reiterates its request in resolution 2284 (2016) that the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel make available its good offices, as necessary, to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

"The Security Council commends the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Mano River Union for their efforts to consolidate peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire and the subregion, and encourages them to continue to support the Ivorian authorities in addressing key challenges.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of continued support to Côte d'Ivoire as it embarks on the next stage of its development, beyond UNOCI, and welcomes the willingness of the United Nations and bilateral and multilateral partners to continue, as requested by the Ivorian authorities, to play a significant role in this regard."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2017/8.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7994

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7994th meeting
Friday, 30 June 2017, 10.40 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Llorentty Soliz	(Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Members:	China	Mr. Zhang Dianbin
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Woldegerima
	France	Mrs. Gueguen
	Italy	Mr. Lambertini
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Sweden	Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Tachco
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Security Council mission

Briefing by Security Council mission to Haiti (22 to 24 June 2017)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-19246 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council mission

Briefing by Security Council mission to Haiti (22 to 24 June 2017)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, which led the Security Council mission to Haiti from 22 to 24 June.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

The Security Council visited the Republic of Haiti from 22 to 24 of June on an official mission headed by Bolivia in its capacity as President of the Council for the month of June. The purpose of the visit was to: reaffirm the support of the Security Council to the Government and the people of Haiti for the purpose of contributing to its stability and development; review the implementation of resolution 2350 (2017), with a focus on the conclusion of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the transition to the new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH); and identify the necessary measures for the successful implementation of the mandate of MINUJUSTH.

The visit was conducted over three days. All meetings were held in Port-au-Prince. On the first day, the Security Council met four stakeholders. The first meeting was with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission, Ms. Sandra Honoré, and her team. Ms. Honoré welcomed the mission and indicated the progress being made in the drawdown of MINUSTAH and preparations for the transition to MINUJUSTH.

The second Council meeting was with His Excellency the President of the Republic of Haiti, Mr. Jovenel Moïse, and members of his Cabinet. President Moïse indicated the vision of his Government to respond to the major challenges facing his country, while emphasizing the Caravane du changement and the joint legislative agenda. He expressly mentioned the wish that MINUJUSTH be reclassified under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, instead of Chapter VII. He deplored the cholera situation and expressed his support for the new focus of the United Nations. He also expressed his concern about the well-being of orphaned children and cases of sexual abuse and exploitation.

The third meeting was with the officials of the United Nations team in Haiti. They indicated that the United Nations has before it an opportunity to focus on decentralization, the rule of law, agriculture and education. The first day of the visit ended with a meeting with the diplomatic corps, during which the many complex challenges and needs that the country is facing were enumerated.

On the second day, we had six meetings. We first met with the Supreme Council of the National Police, under the Prime Minister, Mr. Jack Guy Lafontant, who thanked the Security Council for its visit and reaffirmed his country's commitment to the professionalization of the police. Another senior member of the Supreme Council of the National Police, the Director-General of the Haitian National Police, Mr. Michel-Ange Gedeon, reviewed the many achievements and challenges of the police and informed us about the priorities of his institution set out in the strategic development plan for the period 2017-2020.

After this meeting, we held an event to pay tribute to the victims of, and persons affected by, the earthquake of 2010. The second meeting we had on 23 June was with main authorities of the National Assembly and the commissions for justice, public security, human rights, constitutional reform, ethics and anti-corruption.

Parliamentarians were grateful to the United Nations for the support in stabilizing the country and the deployment of MINUSTAH in 2004. They requested that the new Mission be placed under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations. They reviewed the legislation, highlighting parliamentary initiatives under way and the constitutional review process. Lastly, they explained the difficulties faced by women with respect to gender equality and the exercise of their rights.

After that, we met representatives of civil society and the private sector. In a meeting with civil society we highlighted issues of access to justice and impunity and the inadequate response to the challenges of cholera. Civil society representatives spoke of the need

to review the work conducted by MINUSTAH with respect to the rule of law. In the meeting with the private sector, emphasis was placed on the need for economic development in Haiti, as well as the relationship between strengthening the judicial system, encouraging investment and employment creation. Also mentioned was the appropriateness of implementing MINUJUSTH under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations in order to improve Haiti's international image, thereby making it possible to attract greater investment.

The fifth meeting we had was with the High Judicial Council. During that meeting, Council members discussed the various difficulties faced by the judiciary and the need to modernize the system and be able to access the appropriate technology.

The sixth and last meeting of the day was with the representatives of the Office of Citizen Protection, the Central Financial Intelligence Unit and the Superior Court of Accounts and Administrative Disputes, national entities for accountability and safeguarding. The three entities requested the technical and financial support of the future MINUJUSTH, as well as support for criminal legislation and procedure reform.

The third and last day of the visit, we visited one of the formed police unit camps. The Police Commissioner, Mr. Georges-Pierre Monchotte, reported on the support that the United Nations provides to the Haitian National Police. After that visit the Council hailed the work of the commanders of the troop- and police-contributing countries.

In conclusion, we can affirm that the mission of the Security Council to Haiti was successful because of the large amount of first-hand information we obtained in the face-to-face meetings, gathering thereby a better understanding of the challenges, concerns and the expectations that Haitians have about the conclusion of MINUSTAH and the transition to the new mission of MINUJUSTH. The information gathered will be of great use with respect to defining more precisely the nature of the implementation of the new mission.

The Security Council was informed by various actors of the existing concerns and the need to deal with the situation of cholera, as well as the existing concerns about the cases of sexual exploitation and abuse. The issue of cholera was mentioned at every meeting as a serious concern that requires attention. In the opinion of many members of the Security Council, Haiti is at a stable political crossroads, one that represents a window of opportunity to implement the reforms the country needs in order to respond to challenges related to the rule of law, justice sector reform, the provision of such basic services as health care and education, the supply of water and sanitation services, the improvement of tax-collection levels, economic growth, the promotion of investment and the creation of jobs for the sustainable development of Haiti.

Security Council members all expressed their support for the new focus of the Secretary-General to solve the problem of cholera in Haiti.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

On behalf of the Council, I should like to express appreciation to all of the members of the Security Council and the Secretariat who participated in the mission for the manner in which they discharged their important responsibilities and for all their support.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7995

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7995th meeting

Friday, 30 June 2017, 10.55 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Llorentty Soliz	(Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Members:	China	Mr. Zhang Dianbin
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Woldegerima
	France	Mrs. Gueguen
	Italy	Mr. Lambertini
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Tachco
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/53)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Colombia (S/2017/539)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-19240 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/53)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Colombia (S/2017/539)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Colombia to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jean Arnault, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/539, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Colombia.

I now give the floor to Mr. Arnault.

Mr. Arnault: I am pleased to supplement the Secretary-General's report to the Council dated 23 June (S/2017/539) and to inform the Council that three days ago, on 27 June, the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) met its obligations under the 29 May road map agreement by handing over to the United Nations Mission in Colombia the remaining 40 per cent of the individual weapons registered by the Mission in March.

A number of weapons will remain at the disposal of FARC-EP to provide security for the camps and the United Nations weapons-laydown team sites therein until 1 August, on which date the containers will be removed from the camps, and the current zones where the FARC-EP are assembled will be turned into training and reintegration areas secured by the Colombian police and armed forces.

At the "farewell to arms, farewell to war" ceremony held on 27 June in a FARC-EP camp in a region that has been at the epicentre of the war, President Santos and the head of the FARC-EP secretariat, Timoleón Jiménez, sent strong and moving messages to a Colombian society often doubtful of the promises of the peace process. Mr. Jiménez announced that, with the laying down of its weapons, the FARC-EP was formally marking the end of the 53-year armed insurgency and the beginning of an unarmed, peaceful and democratic movement. I can only quote President Santos Calderón when he said that reaching and living that day had made his presidency of Colombia worthwhile. He acknowledged the historic significance of the FARC-EP's fulfilment of its commitment to laying down its weapons and affirmed his own commitment to implementing the Final Peace Agreement, as he said, to the last comma. At the ceremony, religious leaders, including the President of the Bishops' Conference of Colombia, acted as witnesses of honour for the final stage of the laying down of weapons.

The conviction expressed by both leaders — that half a century of war is now over — has been borne out by the Mission's review of the ceasefire that has been in place since the end of August 2016. Indeed, while in the past nine months there have been a number of failures to observe the rules of the ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities, none have showed a pattern of deliberate violation or any involvement of high-level decision-makers on either side. We therefore believe that as the FARC-EP lays down its weapons, the ceasefire has been consolidated. It will nevertheless be important to ensure that the tripartite Monitoring and Verification Mechanism continues to operate for some time after 1 August, when the current zones and points are due to disappear. It has been an effective tool for maintaining and strengthening confidence between the parties to the conflict, and its presence at the local level will help to ensure that any incidents that may occur in the next few weeks and months can still be dealt with cooperatively. Incidentally, eight months after the Mechanism began operating, we think that the merits of its tripartite approach — whereby the two parties participate directly in verifying each other's compliance, with United Nations support and coordination — have been well established. While the Mechanism's success owes much to the confidence fostered between the warring parties at the negotiating table, the Council might wish to consider whether it could usefully be applied to other peace processes.

With the storing of individual weapons in United Nations containers, the Mission and the FARC-EP, with the support of the armed forces and the police, can now devote their full attention to disposing of hundreds of arms caches, collecting the weapons in them and destroying explosives and unstable armaments. So far, 81 arms caches have been visited and a large amount of explosives destroyed. Plans are ongoing with the FARC and the Government to extract another 380 in the coming weeks, with more to follow. Disposing of arms caches is undoubtedly a difficult process, but we are encouraged by the willingness of the FARC-EP and the armed forces to move forward, and we are confident that at least a very high percentage of the caches, if not all, can be dealt with by 1 September, when the Mission's verification of the caches ends and responsibility switches to the Government.

The past few days have brought good, encouraging news to Colombia and the world, and it is perfectly all right to celebrate these advances, even if there is clearly no reason to pause and no room for complacency. While the completion of the laying down of individual weapons has created new opportunities, it has also emphasized the urgency of moving forward quickly with the implementation of the peace agenda.

The first and most urgent challenge is undoubtedly the reintegration of the 10,000 FARC-EP combatants and militias, among whom there is a deep sense of uncertainty about their physical security in the wake of disarmament and about their socioeconomic future. As the reports of the Secretary-General have stressed, reintegration is a particularly daunting endeavour against a backdrop of entrenched illegal economies, the spread of armed groups — including organized crime and FARC dissidents — into areas formerly controlled by the FARC-EP, and a pattern of violence against social leaders. One of the merits of the 29 May road map is that it clearly lays out a number of priorities relating to the legal, physical and socioecomic security of FARC-EP members. No effort should be spared in promptly implementing that agenda.

Beyond the reintegration of combatants, the peace process must also respond to the needs and expectations of the more vulnerable sectors of Colombian society. We fully agree with the three priority areas identified by the Government — deploying security forces to protect communities and establish the rule of law in the areas most affected by the war; mobilizing national and local institutions to bring goods and services to rural areas long outside their reach; and implementing the new peace jurisdiction as quickly as possible so as to deliver on the promise of justice for the victims of the conflict. We welcome the fact that, together with reintegration, these were precisely the priorities that the Government indicated to the Peacebuilding Fund, and we urge the international community to support these goals.

We are honoured by the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP's request that we establish a second verification mission, focused on reintegration and wider security guarantees, to begin operating as soon as possible. As I have indicated, that is where some of the most immediate and pressing challenges to the consolidation of peace lie. We believe that the terms of reference indicated in President Santos's letter to the Secretary-General and the Security Council (S/2016/53, annex) represent a good basis for a credible and effective verification mandate. Like the first mission, the second will be as much about fostering cooperation and building confidence as about verification as such. In that regard, we believe that the trust that has been established between the Mission, the two parties, the State institutions and civil society can help to ensure the success of the second mandate.

The Security Council's decision in January 2016 to back the implementation of the agreement on a ceasefire and a laying down of arms by establishing the United Nations Mission in Colombia was widely regarded across Colombian society as a guarantee that the commitments made in Havana would be duly implemented at home. Across political divides, and the current polarized atmosphere notwithstanding, the Security Council remains a highly significant factor for confidence in the midst of the misgivings and uncertainties that are the inevitable sequels to such a protracted and painful conflict. As the peace process in Colombia enters a new phase, beyond the laying down of weapons, the Council's commitment to the peace process and the determination it expressed in its presidential statement S/PRST/2017/6, following its visit to Colombia in early May, to support the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement will remain an invaluable contribution to the long-term success of this unique endeavour.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Arnault for his briefing and for the work he is doing. I would also like to welcome the presence at today's meeting of Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Since this is the final formal meeting of the Council under your stewardship, Mr. President, I thank you and would like to heartily congratulate you, on behalf of my delegation, on the excellent work you have done this month. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2017/539), and his Special Representative, Mr. Jean Arnault, for his detailed briefing.

This Wednesday, Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, visited the United Nations Mission in Colombia and the tripartite Monitoring and Verification Mechanism. The visit took place at a historic moment for Colombia, which only the day before had announced the final laying down of arms of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP). On that occasion, Minister Nin Novoa brought a message from the Government of Uruguay conveying its full support and readiness to collaborate with the Colombia peace process, as well as its commitment to the new mandate requested by the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP, which the Council will consider shortly.

We stress that the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement demonstrates once again the firm commitment of the parties to the peace process. We have on many occasions stated, and once again reiterate, that the people of Colombia have shown the world through actions that giving peace a chance is worth it. Their leaders have staked their entire civic and political capital in opting for peace. True courage means fighting for peace, not making war.

The FARC-EP has made its final contribution by laying down its arms by the end of May, pursuant to the road map. For a combatant, laying down arms has great significance, because he ceases to be what he once was for a long period and exposes himself, as Mr. Arnault rightly pointed out, to a period of uncertainty in which he is no longer who he was and is not yet who he will be. Consequently, a great deal of courage is required, and we salute them. The laying down of arms made possible the heartfelt ceremony that Mr. Arnault referenced, which signalled the closure of a key stage of the Havana accords and opened a new chapter towards the future. As Jean also mentioned, it still remains for explosives to be removed from arms caches. However, that task is already under say and will be carried out according to the timetable.

The Colombian Government has demonstrated its commitment to the implementation of the Agreement, using the fast-track procedure to adopt important laws in order to accelerate the process, as well as adopting numerous decrees related, inter alia, to the economic and social development of areas affected by the conflict, the socioeconomic reintegration of FARC-EP members and the reintegration of children.

The United Nations Mission in Colombia, for its part, has carried out many tasks of a different nature, while playing a fundamental role in the success of the various implementation stages of the Agreement that, until now, had been easily circumvented. That confirms that the Security Council acted wisely in establishing the current Mission in Colombia. In this new phase, we believe that it must continue to act in the same manner.

Given the remaining difficulties in the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement and understandable concerns, we consider that the request made by the President of the Republic of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, on behalf of the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP, that a second political mission of the United Nations be established before 10 July — with a focus on the political and socioeconomic reintegration of the FARC-EP and on the implementation of personal and collective security measures for its members, as well as for integral security and protection programmes for the communities and organizations in the territories.

We also consider the recommendations of the Secretary-General to be timely and are encouraged by the information that the current Mission in Colombia would be able to initiate some tasks of the second mandate, on a provisional basis, in response to the request of the parties.

That is why we fully support the request of the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP to establish a second political mission of the United Nations in Colombia, with a mandate that is consistent with the request, and fully endorse the recommendations of the Secretary-General.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2017/539). Let me also thank Special Representative Arnault and his team for his important briefing and,

more important, for the work that they carry out on a daily basis.

I want to take this opportunity to say a few words about the courage of both sides. Peace is never easy. It requires a great deal of courage and endurance. In Colombia we have seen both. We congratulate the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) for reaching another historic milestone in the peace process, with the successful laying down of individual arms by the FARC-EP on 27 June. As the Security Council saw first hand during its visit to Colombia, the process was not without challenges. We therefore commend the firm commitment of both sides and their efforts to overcome challenges in the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement that resulted in this historic achievement. I concur with Ambassador Rosselli in his description of the exemplary achievements reached thus far.

The United Nations Mission in Colombia has played an important role in support of the peace process. We believe that a second political mission will support the parties in building trust and overcoming challenges for the next stage. For that reason, we strongly support a second United Nations mission in Colombia. A second mission must be tailored to the next stage of the peace process. We would like to underscore the need for a second mission to have sufficient presence locally and regionally to be able to effectively and meaningfully verify the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Agreement. That includes the reintegration of elements of the FARC-EP as well as personal and collective security guarantees, as requested by the parties. I must say that we are concerned about the killings of human rights defenders, FARC-EP members and their families, as well as violence against social leaders — as reported by the Secretary-General.

It is also important that the second mission should cooperate, support and coordinate with the United Nations country team with regard to overlapping mandates. That should maximize synergies and avoid duplication so that the United Nations can really deliver as one and adopt a coherent approach to facilitating the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

Peace can be made only by those who are part of the conflict; however, once they set out along the path of peace they should not walk it alone. All parts of the State need to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement, including moving forward on the amnesty provisions. The goodwill and generosity of spirit of partners is essential. A committed and sustained effort is needed in support of the implementation of the wider Peace Agreement, including comprehensive rural reform, so that it can rapidly deliver tangible peace dividends. In that regard, we were impressed by the presentation of the annual report of the United Nations Post-Conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Colombia, which brings together the Colombian Government, the United Nations and the international community. We are very proud to have contributed to that Fund.

I thank the Special Representative for his update on the situation of children, and in particular on the implementation of the agreement signed on 15 May 2016 on the separation and reintegration of children associated with the FARC-EP. The focus must now be on reintegration and rehabilitation of children separated from the ranks of the FARC-EP. In that regard, we would like highlight the Colombia conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, which I had the pleasure and honour to chair, and the recommendations they contain.

We would also like to thank the Special Representative for the work that the Mission has undertaken regarding the inclusion and participation of women, as well as in developing prevention and protection mechanisms for possible situations of gender-based violence. I also credit the Government for the way it is carrying out that agenda.

The Peace Agreement marked a new beginning for Colombia. With each milestone along the way, peace is further consolidated. Yet, as the Secretary-General told us in January, peace is not inevitable. It still requires a lot of hard work. In our national capacities, as Member States and friends of the Colombian people, but also as a united Security Council, we must continue to stand with the parties as they continue to work for lasting peace in Colombia.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): At the outset, we thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, Mr. Jean Arnault, for his briefing and commend him on his great contribution and that of the Mission to the peace process in Colombia. We warmly recall our visit to Colombia and appreciate his help in facilitating that historic trip. My delegation would like to share the following observations.

First, Kazakhstan welcomes the many positive developments that have occurred in fulfilling the Peace Agreement. We are pleased to know that another major milestone has been achieved in the peace process when, on 27 June, 100 per cent of the individual weapons possessed by members of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) were surrendered, received and stored by the Mission. We strongly commend the people of Colombia for their courage and resolve to achieve peace and stability in their own country. Their commitment to the peace process is exemplary.

Secondly, we acknowledge the very timely mission of the Security Council to Colombia in May, which gave us the unique opportunity to witness at first-hand the accomplishments made thus far, as well as the challenges encountered in successfully implementing the Peace Agreement. We were able to demonstrate the unified solidarity of the international community with the Government and the people of Colombia in their efforts to restore peace, stability and security. Our presence was therefore a positive affirmation and sign of support for the determination of the Government and the FARC-EP to the peace process that benefits all Colombians.

Thirdly, despite the progress achieved, we are concerned about the ongoing attacks on community leaders, human rights defenders and FARC-EP members and their families. The activities of non-State armed groups, including the National Liberation Army, is sufficient cause for alarm. The Government should take every step possible to prevent such attacks in order to avoid undermining public confidence. It is absolutely essential to ensure security in all areas vacated by the FARC-EP so as to prevent armed groups from filling the vacuum. The long-term reintegration of the members of the FARC-EP and the development of areas affected by the conflict must become high priorities for the Government.

We strongly support the Government of Colombia in its resolve to tackle all of those issues on the ground. However, we understand that it cannot undertake that enormous task alone, and we therefore call upon the international community to mobilize the adequate resources.

Fourthly, in the meantime, it is important not to lose the positive momentum achieved. We therefore encourage the parties to redouble their efforts to implement the Peace Agreement. We join previous speakers in fully endorsing the Secretary-General's recommendations towards the establishment of a second United Nations mission in Colombia.

Finally, once again, we commend the continuing efforts of the Colombian Government towards the consolidation and implementation of the peace accord and encourage it and the international community to continue to work hard in order to overcome challenges and facilitate and expedite the establishment of lasting peace in Colombia.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Bolivia thanks the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jean Arnault, for his briefing and for his good work as Head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia. We would also like to welcome the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, Ambassador Ms. Mejía Vélez, to the Security Council.

On 27 June, the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) reached another historic milestone in their peace process. The members of the FARC-EP completed the process of surrendering their individual weapons, thereby demonstrating that the peace process in Colombia is irreversible. In that regard, Bolivia welcomes the road map approved on 29 May and commends both parties on their attitude to the process — calculating each step, establishing committees, analysing each stage, meeting to address challenges and reaching consensus on the way forward.

The process met with success because, in spite of their differences, the Government and the FARC-EP are engaged in ongoing talks to achieve their shared goal of peace. It is vital that they maintain and strengthen their attitude towards dialogue and common understanding as they enter the most difficult stage of the process. The road map stipulates that the members of the FARC-EP must surrender all of their weapons by 20 June. That step has been achieved. For its part, the Government promised to guarantee the physical, legal and socioeconomic safety of the former members of the FARC-EP, as stipulated in the Peace Agreement. We trust that that commitment will be gradually honoured.

This phase poses a genuine challenge. The murders of community leaders, human rights defenders and relatives of people with links to the guerrillas or dissidents; people who spread a message of hate instead of reconciliation and the illegal economy, inter alia, are all challenges that illustrate the complexity of the reintegration phase. Peace should be the cord that binds Colombians, and the support of the international community will play a fundamental role in that endeavour.

Bolivia believes that the parties to the conflict made the right decision when they requested that the Security Council establish a mission to verify the reintegration of ex-combatants. Once again, the Government and the FARC-EP have put their trust in the Security Council and the United Nations. We believe that the members of the Council will continue to provide firm and unanimous support to the peace process in Colombia. I would also like to highlight the remarks made by the Post-Conflict Minister of Colombia, Mr. Rafael Pardo, who, during his recent visit to New York, mentioned plans to deliver on one of the main objectives of the Peace Agreement, which is to raise the standard of living in rural areas and to bridge the existing gap between rural and urban areas.

We believe that measures to formalize land ownership in rural areas and improve social security for farmers and other residents of rural areas are important in the medium term. We hope that the international community and financial institutions can provide the necessary cooperation.

Finally, as expressed by my country's Minister for Foreign Affairs in a letter dated 28 June, we reaffirm the resolute support of the Bolivian Government for peacebuilding efforts in Colombia as part of fostering a culture of peace and dialogue to ensure the peaceful coexistence of its people. In that regard, in addition to the leadership and the political capital demonstrated by the Government and the leaders of the FARC-EP, we must underscore the third angle of this virtuous triangle, which is the support provided to the victims throughout the peace process. Leadership, boldness and the spirit of reconciliation make this process an example for the world to follow.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): As Mr. Arnault stated — and I would like to reiterate — the visit to our country by the members of the Security Council was of the utmost importance. For the very first time, we witnessed both supporters and detractors of the peace process engaging in dialogue, gleaning additional information and trying to deepen their understanding about the common goal that unites us.

I would like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, for being part of the Council's mission to Colombia last week. I think that the visit was very valuable. I also thank Mr. Arnault and his entire team for their remarks and for facilitating the surrender, on 27 June, of all individual weapons held by the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) to the United Nations, an organization that we acknowledge and respect for its impartiality and its role as the guarantor of global peace and security.

More than nine months have elapsed since the start of the United Nations Mission in Colombia and, through the reports of the Secretary-General, members of the Council have witnessed the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, the registration of weapons, the surrender of all individual weapons, the 9,604 members of the FARC-EP, including militiamen and guerillas, who are in the process of being reintegrated, a series of legislative and institutional reforms required for the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the start of plans for the reintegration process, which the Post-Conflict Minister so eloquently explained last week.

For all those reasons, I dare say that, despite the remaining tasks, both the FARC-EP and the Colombian Government have in fact fully upheld their commitments. These are not minor tasks. In the coming months, by the time we finish the first Mission's mandate in September, we must work to complete the phase of locating, extracting and destroying unstable armaments in the caches, as the Special Representative mentioned during his briefing.

This peace process is largely the result of the leadership of President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón and of Colombia's commitment to moving forward with strength and determination on the path towards lasting peace.

I am honoured to be here before Council members representing a country that has bid farewell to arms as part of a monumental effort in which Colombians have

insisted, over and over again throughout the years, with successes but also many failures, until we reached this moment that opens the door to a future that is possible for all of us.

Similarly, and based on what we have learned together, Colombia and the United Nations — through the one-of-a-kind tripartite mechanism format, which Mr. Jean Arnault mentioned — have learned lessons that can certainly serve Council members on other matters, bearing in mind the unique aspects of each case, and even, in a not-too-distant future, can serve to reciprocate the unwavering support given to us by the international community, the United Nations and the Security Council throughout this process. At the end of the day, the Peace Agreement seeks to build a more inclusive Colombia in which there is room for everybody, so we can all contribute to the building of our nation, whose success lies primarily with all Colombians.

I know that I do not need to tell you, Mr. President, or any Council member how precarious building sustainable peace is once the agreements between parties to a conflict have been signed. It has always been said that the first years of reincorporation are the hardest and are when the political will, the action and the commitment of the parties and the support of the international community are put to the test. That is why I would like to reiterate once again the gratitude of my Government and of the citizens of Colombian.

Now that we are preparing to establish a second political mission whose mandate responds to the contents of the Peace Agreement itself, we are confident that the history of Colombia, which until now has been a success story, can continue and be strengthened. With the Council's support, I am sure that this will be so.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

Before adjourning the meeting, as this is the last scheduled meeting of the Council during the Bolivian presidency, I would like to express the sincere appreciation of my delegation to all the members of the Council, especially my colleagues, the permanent representatives, the deputy permanent representatives, the diplomatic experts of all the missions and the secretariat of the Council for all the support it has given to us, as well as the rest of the Council members, who have supported us during the various meetings. Indeed, as the representative of Uruguay said earlier, it has been a busy month, but we think we achieved our objectives in terms of reaching consensus on several important issues within our purview. We could not have done it alone or without the support and fraternal solidarity of Council members, despite our differences.

I am grateful for the positive contributions of every delegation on the various issues. I thank the representatives of the Secretariat — the interpreters, the translators, the Conference Services officers, the sound engineers and the security personnel — who safeguarded the Council's work.

As we end our presidency, I know that I speak on behalf of the Council in wishing the delegation of China the best of luck in the month of July, when it will assume the presidency of the Council.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7996

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7996th meeting
Wednesday, 5 July 2017, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Fernández Revollo
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mrs. Syrota
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-20500 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): As this is the first public meeting of the Security Council for the month of July, I should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Security Council, to pay tribute to His Excellency Mr. Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz, Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for his service as President of the Council for the month of June. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Llorentty Soliz and his delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Republic of Korea to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Miroslav Jenča, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Jenča.

Mr. Jenča: According to the official news agency of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and various Government sources, at approximately 9 a.m. local time on 4 July, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched a ballistic missile that it termed a "test fire of intercontinental ballistic rocket Hwasong-14". The missile was launched near the Panghyon airfield in northwestern Democratic People's Republic of Korea. According to an official Government announcement, it covered a distance of 933 kilometres during a 39-minute flight, reaching an altitude of 2,802 kilometres, before falling into the sea. According to those parameters, the missile would have a range of roughly 6,700 kilometres if launched on a more typical trajectory, making it an intercontinental ballistic missile, according to widely used definitions. Once again, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea did not send pre-launch notifications to international organizations responsible for airspace and maritime safety. The country's official media claim that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is now

> "a full-fledged nuclear Power that has been possessed of the most powerful intercontinental ballistic rocket capable of hitting any part of the world, along with nuclear weapons".

This is the seventh time that the Council has met to discuss the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2017. Including today's meeting, five of these emergency consultations have followed the launch of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in open violation of Security Council resolutions.

The Secretary-General strongly condemns the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's launch of a ballistic missile with intercontinental range, which constitutes yet another brazen violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and a dangerous escalation of the situation. The country's leadership must cease any further provocative actions and comply fully with its international obligations. The Secretary-General underlines how important it is that the international community maintain its unity in addressing this serious challenge. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must end any actions that violate Security Council resolutions and allow time for sincere dialogue to resume. All the parties must work to reopen communications, particularly through military-to-military channels, in order to reduce the risk of miscalculation or misunderstanding.

Amid the escalating security situation in the region, the United Nations and its partners play a critical role in saving the lives of the most vulnerable people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As the Council considers its response, we again remind Member States of the importance of separating political and humanitarian concerns and urge them to support the lifesaving activities being carried out by the humanitarian organizations in the country.

I would like to close by reiterating the Secretary-General's commitment to seeking peaceful and political solutions. The United Nations will remain in close contact with all the parties concerned and is ready to assist in any way possible.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Jenča for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): To my friends on the Security Council, I must say that today is a dark day, because yesterday's actions by North Korea made the world a more dangerous place. Its illegal missile launch was not only dangerous but also reckless and irresponsible. It showed that North Korea does not want to be part of a peaceful world. It has cast a dark shadow of conflict on all nations that strive for peace.

Yesterday's act came from the same vicious dictator who sent a young college student home to his parents unresponsive and in a coma. For Americans, the true nature of the North Korean regime was painfully brought home with the images of two guards holding Otto Warmbier up as they transported him from a prison, in which he should never have been. Otto Warmbier is but one person out of the millions who have been killed, tortured or deprived of their human rights by the North Korean regime.

To Americans, the death of one innocent person can be as powerful as the death of millions because all men and women are created in God's image. Depravity towards one is a sure sign of willingness to do much more harm. The nature of the North Korean regime is clear. Only the scale of the damage that it does could become different. That is why yesterday's escalation is so alarming. If North Korea treats an innocent young student the way it treated Otto Warmbier, we should not be surprised if it acts barbarically on a larger scale.

The United States does not seek conflict. In fact, we seek to avoid it. We seek only the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and an end to the threatening actions of North Korea. Regrettably we are witnessing just the opposite. Make no mistake — North Korea's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is a clear and sharp military escalation. The North Korean regime openly states that its missiles are intended to deliver nuclear weapons to strike cities in the United States, South Korea and Japan, and now it has greater capacity to do so. In truth, it is not only the United States and our allies that are threatened. North Korea's destabilizing escalation is a threat to all nations in and beyond the region. Its actions are quickly closing off the possibility of a diplomatic solution.

The United States is prepared to use the full range of its capabilities to defend itself and its allies. One of our capabilities lies with our considerable military forces. We will use them if we must, but we prefer not to have to go in that direction. We have other methods of addressing those who threaten us and of addressing those who supply the threats. We have great capabilities in the area of trade. President Trump has spoken repeatedly about that. I spoke with him at length about it this morning.

There are countries that are allowing — even encouraging — trade with North Korea in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Such countries would also like to continue their trade arrangements with the United States. That is not going to happen. Our attitude on trade changes when countries do not take international security threats seriously. Before the path to a peaceful solution is entirely closed, however, there remains more that the international community can and must do diplomatically and economically.

In the coming days, we will bring before the Security Council a draft resolution that raises the international response in a way that is proportionate to North Korea's new escalation. I will not detail the draft resolution here today, but the options are all known to us. If we are unified, the international community can cut off the major sources of hard currency to the North Korean regime. We can restrict the flow of oil to its military and its weapons programme. We can increase air and maritime restrictions. We can hold senior regime officials accountable.

The international community has spoken frequently against the illegal and dangerous actions of the North Korean regime. For many years, there have been numerous United Nations sanctions against North Korea, but they have been insufficient to get it to change its destructive course. If we are to have an impact on and move North Korea off its military escalation, we must therefore do more. We will not look exclusively at North Korea. We will look at any country that chooses to do business with that outlaw regime. We will show no patience for stalling or talking our way down to a watered-down resolution. Yesterday's ICBM escalation requires an escalated diplomatic and economic response.

Time is short. Action is required. The world is on notice. If we act together, we can still prevent a catastrophe, and we can rid the world of a grave threat.

If we fail to act in a serious way, there will be a different response. Much of the burden of enforcing United Nations sanctions rests with China; 90 per cent of trade with North Korea is from China. We will work with China. We will work with any and every country that believes in peace, but we will not repeat the inadequate approaches of the past, which have brought us to this dark day.

We cannot forget the multiple missile tests of this year or yesterday's escalation. We cannot forget Otto Warmbier and others whom North Korea continues to hold. We cannot forget the threats to our friends and allies around the world. We will not forget, and we will not delay.

Mr. Kawamura (Japan): I would like to begin by thanking you, Sir, for convening this urgent meeting jointly requested by the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan.

I also thank Mr. Jenča for his briefing.

North Korea once again launched a ballistic missile in blatant violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. This is totally unacceptable. Japan lodged a strong protest directly against North Korea immediately following the launch and condemned the act in the strongest terms. Here I express once again our strong condemnation of this utterly unacceptable provocation. Japan demands that North Korea immediately cease all ballistic-missile and nuclear-development programmes and provocations. Japan will never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea.

The North Korean official media has announced that North Korea successfully carried out the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. The missile reached an altitude of more than 2,500 kilometres, flew for approximately 40 minutes and landed within the Japanese exclusive economic zone, approximately 300 kilometres off the Oga peninsula. A number of Japanese fishing vessels were at sea at the time of the launch. That shows how dangerous and irresponsible North Korea's action was. If it had not been such a high-altitude launch, the missile would have flown for more than 5,500 kilometres and could have reached many other Member States' soil.

Those provocations by North Korea trample upon international efforts towards the peaceful settlement of nuclear and missile issues and present an enormous global threat. As North Korea claims that it is capable of hitting any part of the world, its threat has literally become global. The most recent provocation has made it even more evident that circumstances are not right for dialogue with North Korea at this time. No other choice for us is left other than to work together to increase the pressure on North Korea. The thorough and faithful implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions is critically important. All States Members must work together to pressure North Korea into taking concrete action leading towards denuclearization. We need to send a clear, united message that it is North Korea that needs to change, not our side.

We must recall the Council's determination to take further significant measures in the event of a further nuclear test or launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The latest launch requires a swift response from the Council in the form of a resolution with robust sanctions. Japan looks forward to working closely with Council members to that end.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to thank you, Sir, and the representatives of the United States and Japan for convening this very important meeting.

I also thank Mr. Jenča, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, for his very enlightening briefing on the situation.

The Security Council is once again meeting following a serious and unjustifiable violation by North Korea of its international obligations, which threatens international peace and security. With the launch of a ballistic missile two days ago, North Korea continues in its posture of an inexcusable headlong rush. It is confirming its stubborn and proclaimed determination to flout the authority of the Security Council. It continues to ignore the numerous appeals and calls to reason, which we have continuously addressed to it. Finally, it persists with an irresponsible provocative attitude, which threatens to leads us straight to an escalation.

France has condemned the missile launch, just as it has condemned the numerous ballistic missile launches carried out by Pyongyang in recent months. All of North Korea's actions fuel a dangerous and provocative spiral of regional instability and even threaten peace and international security. Today, the countries of the region are directly threatened. I reiterate France's full solidarity with them, but let us be fully aware that everyone is now affected by this threat. It is a global threat.

The systematic and determined effort, initiated at the highest level of the North Korean regime, to develop its nuclear programmes speaks for itself. This new ballistic missile launch, which follows in the wake of previous launches and nuclear tests, represents another step towards North Korea's acquisition of an operational nuclear capacity. It is a deliberate, methodical and fully acknowledged assault on the non-proliferation regime, which is at the heart of our security system and which we cannot afford to tolerate. Let us make no mistake — North Korea's nuclear programme is one of the main threats to the non-proliferation regime that we have forged together, step by step, in recent decades. The non-proliferation regime itself is the backbone of international peace and security, which we are responsible for protecting. This dangerous forward push must cease immediately and without preconditions.

Sanctions are never automatic or an end in themselves, but when our messages, appeals and even our warnings are deliberately, repeatedly and systematically ignored, a determined response is necessary. Negotiation is always the first choice, but the current situation does not allow for it at all. The deliberate, repeated and outright violation by whomsoever of our decisions cannot be subject to bargaining. It is up to North Korea to sincerely demonstrate, through concrete action, that it is ready to invest in a negotiated settlement. Otherwise, we will have no other choice but to respond firmly.

Nuclear proliferation is essentially what is at stake. In the face of this threat, weakness and lack of action are not options. We have been brought together by a shared sense of urgency and a common determination to ensure that the authority of the Security Council is upheld. We must therefore shoulder our responsibilities together. The entire international community must pursue its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of measures already adopted, but we must also confirm our decisive commitment to putting an end to the irresponsible action of North Korea. Our goal must be complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Time is of the essence. The firm and unambiguous message conveyed through today's meeting is an important step in this direction.

France has been at the forefront of establishing a non-proliferation regime and intends to stay there. In the Security Council and in the European Union, France has always responded with determination and firmness to any attempt to undermine that regime. France has contributed to building consensus with its partners to ensure that a firm response is provided. I would like to reassure the international community that my country will continue to do so with determination. We will therefore work with all our partners for the adoption of a Security Council resolution aimed at imposing new, robust and operational measures. We will also pursue similar measures within the European Union.

When the basis of our collective security is threatened, there is no room for equivocation. Given the risk that the situation could continue to deteriorate, the Council must and will assume its responsibilities.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): Like the previous speakers from the United States, Japan and France, the United Kingdom condemns in the strongest terms the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's flagrant violation of unanimous decisions of the Security Council.

Despite our repeated condemnation and successive Security Council resolutions, the leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has persisted in pursuing its illegal programmes in misguided pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability. This is simply not acceptable. We have seen an unprecedented number of ballistic missile tests over the past year, including ground testing. However, with this launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile, the Council should note that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea clearly intends to threaten directly an ever greater number of States and indirectly the whole world.

All such ballistic missile activity by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is in violation of binding Security Council resolutions, and any capability that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea develops to threaten the security of other States is of grave concern. Our response must be strong and clear. The international community must redouble its efforts.

As the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom has said, North Korea strains every nerve and sinew to build nuclear weapons and launch illegal missiles, even as the people of North Korea endure starvation and poverty. Amid reports of widespread hardship and human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Pyongyang's priority should be the health and welfare of North Korean people, not the continuation of the nuclear programme.

We continue to urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to credible and authentic multilateral talks on its nuclear and ballistic programmes and to abide by its obligations under Security Council resolutions. The United Kingdom has today summoned the Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in London, conveying in the strongest terms our views of this reckless behaviour.

We will also be redoubling our efforts with partners to seek strong enforcement of measures that aim to bring the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the right path. Increased vigilance is needed. We will continue to encourage partners globally to take effective action to understand and, when necessary, disrupt the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's illegal proliferation and other sanctions-evasion activity. We will also work with allies and partners around the world to consider the fullest range of measures to increase diplomatic pressure.

The primary responsibility lies with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but all members of the international community must further strengthen their resolve to enforce existing measures fully and effectively without delay. We also urge all States to comply with the Security Council's requirements for reporting on the implementation of measures. But as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's own statements of defiance make clear, even these steps will probably not be enough. Faced with these provocations, we must toughen our resolve. The United Kingdom supports new binding measures to raise the cost further for these illegal actions. The Security Council should start work immediately on a new resolution to achieve this.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I thank Japan, the United States and the Republic of Korea for asking for this meeting to be convened this afternoon.

The missile test yesterday, of possible intercontinental range, illustrates the determination of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue the development of its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programmes. That is a cause of great concern for the region and, indeed, for the world.

Sweden condemns yesterday's test in the strongest possible terms. We once again call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease all development of its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programmes, and to take immediate steps towards the programme's complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions.

The continued unity of the Security Council in the face of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's blatant violations of the Council's resolutions is of the utmost importance, as is the effective implementation of relevant Council resolutions by all countries. Implementation of the sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains insufficient and highly inconsistent. We reiterate that all United Nations Member States must do their utmost in that regard.

There is no military solution to the situation on the Korean peninsula. There is an urgent need for redoubled efforts to build confidence, avoid further escalation and take steps to prepare for a peaceful, diplomatic and comprehensive solution to the situation on the peninsula and the wider region. All must contribute to that end, and we welcome all initiatives to facilitate a peaceful and comprehensive solution through dialogue. Tensions have risen in recent months, and the potential for mistakes, misunderstanding and miscalculation is high. A regional security mechanism should be the medium-term goal.

We remain fully committed to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. We reiterate our solidarity with the neighbouring countries and their peoples, who are living under the constant shadow of the threatening behaviour of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We again call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to re-engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community. In the meantime, Sweden will stand united with Council members in condemning any action that jeopardizes international peace and security.

Mr. Moustafa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Jenča for his technical and useful briefing.

We stress once again that the current situation on the Korean peninsula remains one of the main challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Egypt expresses its great concern at the continued escalation and tension on the Korean peninsula as a result of the nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which represents one of the main threats to international peace and security. We call once again on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply fully with all its commitments, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions;

to eliminate its entire nuclear arsenal; and to re-join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear State without delay or preconditions.

Egypt is fully committed to make every possible effort at the national level to implement all Security Council sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Egypt supports fully all efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea nuclear programme issue and at achieving durable peace on the Korean peninsula, including all reunification efforts, especially in light of the special and historic relations between Egypt and the countries of the region.

Egypt calls on the international community and the Security Council to deal in a comprehensive manner and without selectivity with all challenges facing the Non-Proliferation Treaty so as to preserve the credibility and effectiveness of the non-proliferation regime and relevant Security Council resolutions. That is especially important in therefore light of the continued erosion of the credibility of that regime, which represents the main pillar of the broader international security architecture. That erosion is the result of the non-universality of the Treaty and the double standards applied when addressing challenges thereto.

In conclusion, my country encourages all parties to exercise self-restraint and to resume discussions aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement as soon as possible. We take note of some of the positive proposals made by China in order to achieve a gradual détente. In that regard, we again urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate with all efforts to promote dialogue and to cease any measures that may lead to further escalation and intention. We call on all international parties to provide the conditions necessary to reach a mutually agreed settlement that would guarantee regional and international peace and security, in line with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Egypt stands ready to make every possible effort to support a peaceful settlement to this crisis in a manner that would preserve regional and international peace and security.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): Italy condemns in the strongest terms the latest missile test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This latest provocation confirms once again that the North Korean regime continues to pursue its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions, and thus in open defiance of the international community.

The latest launch, having an intercontinental range, is particularly worrisome. Equally worrisome is the fact that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea claimed to have reached its objective of acquiring intercontinental ballistic missile capacity. The advancement of missile and nuclear capabilities by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is undermining our collective security.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's escalation and destabilizing activities pose a clear, serious and growing threat to international security and the global non-proliferation regime. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take immediate steps to abandon its provocative, illegal and self-isolating policies, put a verifiable and irreversible stop to its missile and nuclear programmes, and embark on a different path. That objective continues to require a concerted multilateral effort by the international community to maintain the high level of pressure on the North Korean regime.

In that context, Italy stands ready to work with all relevant stakeholders and members of the Council in order to devise additional and significant restrictive measures. In that endeavour, maintaining the Security Council's unity of purpose will be crucial. We must also not forget that the civilian population of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to be highly vulnerable as a consequence of the regime's policies. We must therefore ensure, as we have in the past, that new restrictive measures do not have any negative unintended consequences for the humanitarian situation in the country. The ultimate objective of the pressure must continue to be a change in behaviour of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, framing a path towards the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the achievement of a peaceful and comprehensive diplomatic solution through dialogue.

The full and effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions by the whole United Nations membership continues to be Italy's priority as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006). Maintaining an open channel for dialogue with Member States, specifically through regional outreach meetings, is proving to be an effective

way to engage the membership and facilitate national efforts to enforce the sanctions regime that is in place.

In that respect, I wish to point out that the rate of submission of national implementation reports has steadily increased. As of today, the Committee has received 94 national implementation reports on resolution 2270 (2016) and 70 on resolution 2321 (2016). Moreover, all national reports under resolution 2321 (2016), the latest adopted, have been received in the past four months, showing a higher submission rate than under previous resolution regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. While encouraging, that is still not sufficient. Let me therefore, as Chair of the 1718 Sanctions Committee, make an urgent appeal to all Member States to continue to provide the necessary attention to this urgent matter.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I wish to thank the delegations of the United States and Japan for having called for the holding of this meeting. I thank you, Mr. President, for having agreed to convene meeting so quickly, and Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jenča for his clear and factual briefing.

Mr. President, you very aptly conveyed the congratulations and gratitude of the members of the Security Council to the Plurinational State of Bolivia for its excellent and very productive presidency of the Council during the previous month. I therefore echo your words.

It is telling that the first formal meeting under your presidency is devoted to yet another act of defiance of the international community and, in particular of the Security Council — specifically, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's launching of an intercontinental ballistic missile yesterday, 4 July, while we all celebrated the national holiday of the United States with our American friends. The Senegalese delegation once again most emphatically condemns the launching of the intercontinental ballistic missile that landed in the Sea of Japan. That act was undoubtedly of a new order, because the successful launching of an intercontinental ballistic missile shows that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, after having methodically pursued its nuclear arms and missile programmes, is more determined than ever to acquire a nuclear deterrent force.

As Mr. Jenča stated, this launch comes after previous such acts on the part of Pyongyang that all of us in the Chamber have condemned. It is not only a threat to the people of the peninsula and the region but also greatly undermines the regime of non-proliferation, with the concomitant ambition of developing the delivery means for nuclear weapons, thereby considerably exacerbating tensions in the region and beyond. It is also a serious threat to air travel both because there was no warning of such a launch and because the region is densely populated and its airspace is one of the world's most travelled.

Once again, the credibility of the Security Council is at stake. Indeed, despite all of the sanctions and measures adopted against it, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, far from abandoning its military ambitions, has gone as far as testing the competence of the Security Council to address the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's illegal military programme. In so doing, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to flagrantly violated the repeated resolutions and prohibitions of the Council.

What are we to do now? We have continued to call on North Korea to renounce provocations and invited it to return to the path of dialogue. Indeed, sanctions could go hand in hand with dialogue in a discrete manner, as mentioned in the various resolutions on North Korea.

In conclusion, because there is no military solution to the tensions on the Korean peninsula, my country reiterates the importance of maintaining peace and security in that part of the world and calls for a comprehensive, peaceful, diplomatic and political solution. To that end, my delegation will work with the other members of the Council in drafting a resolution on the supplementary measures that must be taken.

Mrs. Syrota (Ukraine): We thank the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea for initiating the Council's urgent briefing on the recent missile launch of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as the presidency for promptly convening such a meeting. I also thank Assistant-Secretary-General Miroslav Jenča for his briefing on this alarming issue.

Indeed, the beginning of 2017 has already become another unprecedented period of North Korean destabilization and unlawful actions. The recent launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on 4 July contributed enormously to the growing nuclear threat in the region. Despite immense political and diplomatic efforts to halt the North Korean weapons-of-mass-destruction programmes, we have seen no

sign whatsoever that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's intends to change its behaviour. The irresponsible North Korean policy has already seriously undermined the non-proliferation regime as a whole.

The current developments on the Korean peninsula raise three rhetorical but essential questions. Does Pyongyang hear the signals from the Security Council? Are those signals strong and clear enough? How much time is left before a North Korean ICBM is equipped with a nuclear warhead and successfully deployed?

Needless to say, the Council should use every instrument at its disposal to ensure the full implementation of its decisions. At the same time, we cannot but recognize that the existing sanctions regime appears to be inefficient in preventing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from acquiring the technologies, materials, equipment and financial resources for the further development of its nuclear programme.

I wish to recall Ukraine's previously stated position that the Council should find ways to increase international pressure on the North Korean regime to respond to its reckless behaviour, which continues unabated. We believe that only robust decisions and steps on the part of the Council can put an end to the systematic and brutal violations of international law and eliminate the growing nuclear threat on the continent. We also fully believe in the necessity of further fostering neighbouring States' defence capabilities against that threat.

We cannot wait until the next nuclear test or missile launch. Challenges related to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear and missile ambitions should be addressed collectively, decisively and without further delay. We should not allow Pyongyang to continue discrediting the role of the Security Council in the context of global non-proliferation efforts.

Ukraine remains ready for constructive work with all delegations on this issue, including on a new draft resolution with more robust and operational measures, to ensure positive changes in the current situation and to move closer to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): We too thank the delegations of the United States, Japan and Korea for having called this meeting; Mr. Jenča for his briefing; and especially you, Mr. President, not only for your responsiveness in convening this meeting, but also for making this briefing open to the entire membership. This is too serious an issue for a private meeting and it is important for us to express our views before the entire membership of the Organization.

Uruguay vigorously condemns the recent launch by North Korea of a ballistic missile of allegedly intercontinental range. We call once again on North Korea to fully, verifiably and irreversibly abandon its existing nuclear programmes, and to immediately put an end to all related activities, including launches using ballistic missile technology and other provocative acts. North Korea's behaviour is a threat to international peace and security and constitutes a flagrant violation of myriad Security Council resolutions. North Korea must respect all the resolutions adopted by this body and abandon its nuclear intentions. Such a step would contribute to fostering peace on the Korean peninsula and would help to pave the way to a resumption of dialogue, with the ultimate objective of achieving denulearization.

The use and threat of use of nuclear weapons constitute a crime against humanity and a serious violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as the Charter of the United Nations. The only guarantee against the use or threat of use of these weapons is their express prohibition and total elimination. While we are in the Chamber dealing with North Korea's obstinacy in the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the membership of the United Nations is doing its utmost to be able to adopt, perhaps next Friday, a treaty to prohibit the nuclear weapons. Regrettably, neither North Korea nor the nuclear Powers and other States are participating in those negotiations. The objective of achieving a more secure world, free of the lethal effects of nuclear weapons, should be seen as the goal and responsibility to be born equally by all those gathered in this Chamber today to guarantee the safety and survival of humankind.

North Korea's ongoing defiance and a lack of concrete action on the part of the Security Council and the concerned parties to reach a peaceful solution to this situation simply raise tensions on the Korean peninsula and might inflame the situation further, with serious consequences. In order to make headway, Uruguay understands that the sanctions regime must be fully and properly implemented by all Member States.

Uruguay underscores the need to develop new options for action, try new approaches and ways of negotiating to untangle this situation, which gets worse and worse with each passing month. The Security Council must find an appropriate response to put an end to the endless round of provocations and violations by North Korea and to usher in a resumption of dialogue for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. We reiterate our call for dialogue, as we see no viable solution to the North Korean question other than that of face-to-face negotiation and the shared political commitment of the parties.

Uruguay urges the members of the Security Council to come together as one on this issue and to maintain their commitment to find a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution aimed at the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. In times of great tension, we must remain calm, avoid unilateral actions and focus on finding a solution to the problem.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenča for his briefing on the launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of a ballistic missile.

The situation requires thorough clarification and investigation. The ballistic trajectory of the missile was confirmed and registered on the Russian rocket-launch warning system. According to information from the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, based on an objective and technology-based monitoring of the situation, it has been established that the parameters and data regarding the target of the missile were in line with the tactical criteria of mid-range ballistic missiles.

We are carefully following the development of the situation on the Korean peninsula and call the Council's attention to the joint Russian and Chinese statement about this issue issued in Moscow on 4 July, immediately following the rocket launch. We consider this action by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to be inadmissible and to run counter to relevant Security Council resolutions. Russia and China have firmly urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to strictly comply with the provisions of said resolutions. We share the serious concern regarding the evolving situation on and around the Korean peninsula. The escalation of military and political tensions in the region, which is fraught with the risk of an armed conflict, requires the international community to take collective measures for a peaceful settlement of the situation through dialogue and consultation.

We reject any statement or action that could lead to an escalation and hardening of antagonisms, and call on all interested States to act with restraint, avoid provocation and warmongering, demonstrate readiness to engage in dialogue without preconditions, and make active efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions.

The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China have established a joint initiative, based on the Chinese proposal of a dual-track approach of promoting parallel progress in denuclearization efforts and a suspension-for-suspension approach to establish a peace mechanism on the peninsula, as well as the Russian phased plan to settle the Korean issue.

We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to voluntarily declare a moratorium on the testing of nuclear explosive devices and ballistic missiles. At the same time, the United States and the Republic of Korea should suspend their large-scale joint military training exercises. In parallel, the sides could hold talks and establish general principles for relations, including the non-use of force, the rejection of aggression, peaceful coexistence and steps towards the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula with a view to a comprehensive settlement of all problems, including the missile and nuclear issues.

All interested parties in the negotiations process could, through their chosen format, address the peace and security mechanisms of the Korean peninsuka and North-East Asia, leading to the normalization of relations between relevant States. I call upon all States to support such an initiative, which would offer a true window of opportunity to resolve the issues on the Korean peninsula.

We reaffirm our strong commitment to the international non-proliferation regime and our intention to see the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the comprehensive and full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. We express our intention, together with other interested States, to pursue efforts to ensure that, through dialogue and consultations, all existing concerns are addressed in a balanced way. We call on all sides to comply strictly with the obligations set forth in the joint statement of 19 September 2005 and to swiftly resume dialogue with a view to achieving a comprehensive settlement to the issue of the Korean peninsula.

The option of resorting to military measures to resolve the problem on the Korean peninsula should be excluded. We express our support for the northern and southern sides on the Korean peninsula to engage in dialogue and consultations, demonstrate good will towards one another, improve relations, engage in cooperation towards a peaceful solution and play their due and responsible roles in de-escalating the situation on the Korean peninsula and resolving their pending problems.

We recognize the importance of ensuring international and regional balance and stability. We stress that alliances between certain States should never be established to the detriment of the interests of third parties. We oppose the military presence of extra-regional forces in North-East Asia and their deployment on the pretext of countering the military and missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system in North-East Asia is a serious blow to the interests of the strategic security of States of the region, including Russia and China, and does not serve the goal of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula or ensure peace and stability in the region on the basis of indivisible security. We oppose the deployment of such systems and call on the relevant sides to swiftly halt and cancel the deployment process. All necessary measures should be taken to protect the security interests of the two countries, as well as to strike a strategic balance in the region.

It is perfectly clear to us that any attempt to justify a military solution is inadmissable and could have unpredictable consequences for the region. Attempts to strangle North Korea economically are equally unacceptable, since millions of its people are in great need of humanitarian assistance. The United Nations has a role to play in that regard. Humanitarian efforts must be depoliticized.

In summary, we must all acknowledge that sanctions will not resolve the issue but merely expedite a stalemate. Any attempt to resolve the situation by force would be equally inadmissible. We must take the security concerns of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into account. It is important now to set aside the dangerous logic of confrontation and to seek together a settlement based on a comprehensive political solution to the problems of the Korean peninsula, including the issue of North Korea's missile and nuclear programmes. In that regard, we believe that China's proposal for mutual suspension and parallel progress, as well as the Russian road map for a Korean settlement — including the gradual establishment of a peace mechanism for North-East Asia, leading to the denuclearization of the peninsula — are appropriate starting points for such talks. We call on all to participate in that work.

Mr. Fernández Revollo (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Miroslav Jenča, for the information he shared with us in connection with the latest developments that prompted the convening of this afternoon's emergency meeting.

Bolivia once again expresses its strongest and most energetic condemnation of the conduct of nuclear tests and the launching of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, such as the launch carried out yesterday, 4 July. Accordingly, we call on that country to abandon its nuclear and ballistic-missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible way.

We urge all parties involved to refrain from escalating rhetoric and actions that increase tensions and jeopardize international peace and security, especially in the Korean peninsula. In particular, we urge all parties to refrain from any act of provocation, any unilateral action and any action taken outside international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

We hail and reiterate our support for initiatives of the dual-suspension type, which would allow for a simultaneous cessation of both the launch of ballistic missiles and nuclear tests, on the one hand, and the conduct of military exercises on the Korean peninsula, on the other.

Finally, we call on all parties involved to exclude any military alternative or threatened use of force and to resume dialogue to achieve a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution, resulting in the denuclearization of the Korea peninsula.

Ms. Guadey (Ethiopia): We would also like to thank the delegations of the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea for convening today's meeting. I would also like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Jenča for his briefing.

We join others in strongly condemning the latest launch of an international intercontinental ballistic missile by the Democratic Republic of Korea in violation of various Security Council resolutions. We concur with the Secretary-General that this constitutes "a dangerous escalation of the situation", which threatens regional peace and security in the Korean peninsula.

It is absolutely essential that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cease its provocative actions in order to reduce the tension in the Korean peninsula and prevent the further escalation of the situation. We would like to once again underscore the need for finding lasting comprehensive political and diplomatic solutions through dialogue and negotiation. This requires that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea return to its international commitments on denuclearization and fully comply with relevant resolutions of the Security Council. It is important that we maintain the unity of the Council and speak with one voice in addressing this issue, which is becoming extremely dangerous.

One thing makes us not lose hope: while there might be differences as to methods and approaches, there are in fact no differences in terms of the substance of denuclearizing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This cannot be stated enough.

Finally, the latest launch of a ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a reminder to all of us that the full implementation of the Council's resolutions by all Members State is much more critical now than ever before. I would like to reaffirm the commitment of Ethiopia to continuing to work towards the full implementation of these Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): First of all, let me thank Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenča for his briefing, as well as the United States and Japan for calling for consultations on yet another flagrant violation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Kazakhstan strongly condemns North Korea's irresponsible and dangerous launch of a ballistic missile with a possible intercontinental range, which undermines our common international efforts to strengthen regional and ultimately international peace and security. Today once again, we see how the North Korean regime continues developing its nuclear-missile potential and we observe its steady progress in this direction, which, of course, causes serious concern. The expansion of the nuclear Powers club is totally unacceptable for the wider international community. Therefore, Pyongyang must pursue a contrary approach to the stance it is taking.

It is our urgent and common task to make North Korea comply with international will. All Council members are united in comprehending the full seriousness and complexity of the situation in North Korea. Let us use this unity to develop a comprehensive and balanced approach in order to create conditions for non-military solutions while maintaining the sanctions regime and forcing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to come to dialogue.

In this regard, Kazakhstan once again calls upon North Korea to follow its positive example of willingly abandoning nuclear tests and weapons to live in peace and harmony with the entire world. We stand ready to share our role and experience in this area with Pyongyang if needed.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan is ready to support any initiative leading to a diplomatic and peaceful solution to the crisis on the Korean peninsula.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of China.

I would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Jenča for his briefing.

The Security Council resolutions regarding this issue contain explicit provisions forbidding any launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea using ballistic-missile technology. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's launch of a ballistic missile on 4 July was a flagrant violation of the relevant Council resolutions and defied the will of the entire international community. China finds it unacceptable and strongly urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abide strictly by the decisions of the Security Council and to put a stop to any rhetoric or action that might further exacerbate tensions on the peninsula. At the same time, we call on all the parties concerned to exercise restraint, avoid provocative actions or belligerent rhetoric, demonstrate a desire for dialogue without conditions and work actively together to defuse the tension.

On 4 July, the Heads of State of China and Russia exchanged views on the situation on the Korean peninsula and agreed that the nuclear issue there should be resolved through dialogue and consultation. Our Foreign Ministries issued a joint statement expressing

China and Russia's shared position and concern regarding the issue of the Korean peninsula. The statement laid out our two countries' joint initiative, based on China's two-track approach, and a suspension-for-suspension proposal under Russia's step-by-step plan. The current situation on the peninsula is complex and sensitive, and the dialogue process is at a standstill. China and Russia's joint initiative is aimed at addressing both the symptoms and the root causes and at taking integrated measures to strive for a solution. It is objective, fair, reasonable and feasible. We hope that it will have the support of the international community and help to open a realistic route to resolving the problem of the Korean peninsula.

China has always insisted on the importance of achieving the denuclearization of the peninsula, maintaining peace and stability there and seeking a solution through dialogue and consultation. We have always been firmly opposed to chaos and conflict in the region, and military means should not be considered an option in that regard. The deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system in North-East Asia seriously undermines the strategic security of the countries of the region, including China. As such, it is not conducive to denuclearizing the peninsula or achieving regional peace and stability. China urges the countries concerned to cancel its deployment immediately. The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the achievement of lasting peace and stability there are in the interests of all. We hope that the parties concerned will work together with China and duly play their roles and shoulder their responsibilities, with a view to getting the Korean peninsula issue back on the track of peaceful dialogue as soon as possible.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Cho Tae-yul (Republic of Korea): At the outset, I would like to thank the Chinese presidency for convening today's emergency meeting. My delegation is grateful for the opportunity to participate in addressing the serious and urgent issue of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's launch of a ballistic missile of intercontinental-class range on 3 July.

It is deeply regrettable that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has responded with yet another and even more serious provocation to the repeated messages from the new Government in Seoul, under the leadership of President Moon Jae-in, emphasizing the importance of resolving the issue peacefully and expressing its willingness to engage in dialogue under the right circumstances. It is also a source of profound disappointment to us that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has once again chosen the wrong path by test-firing another long-range ballistic missile just a few days after the 30 June summit meeting in Washington, D.C., between the Republic of Korea and the United States, in which the two leaders called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from provocative, destabilizing actions and rhetoric, and to make a strategic choice to fulfil its international obligations and commitments.

The Republic of Korea condemns in the strongest terms the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's latest provocation as a flagrant violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease testing the unwavering resolve of both the Government of the Republic of Korea and the international community to achieve denuclearization on the Korean peninsula. Its repeated provocations, in defiance of multiple Security Council resolutions, will only strengthen the international community's resolve and be met with a firmer response. Pyongyang must realize that its obsessive pursuit of nuclear and missile programmes, and its continued provocations, will serve only to worsen its diplomatic isolation and deepen its economic plight.

Given the urgency and gravity of the issue, we, the international community, must once again demonstrate our strong resolve not to tolerate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear and ballistic-missile programmes, which have become a global threat requiring global action. In that regard, I recall the Security Council's previously expressed determination to take further significant measures in the event of a further nuclear test or missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We must indeed take stronger measures, which should include a new sanctions resolution, to stop the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's provocations. At the same time, the effectiveness of swift, full and thorough implementation of the current sanctions resolutions cannot be overemphasized in the quest to bring the Democratic People's Republic of Korea back to credible denuclearization negotiations.

This is the last opportunity for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to chart a new beginning in inter-Korean relations and in its relations with the international community. It must renounce its nuclear brinkmanship and step back from the point of no return. Pyongyang should awaken from its delusion that nuclear and ballistic-missile development can ensure its security, and instead resolve to choose a path to denuclearization.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make further statements.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for making this a public meeting and enabling all of us to voice our concerns.

I would first like to tell my Russian friends that not only has the Secretary-General said that the launch was an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), and the United States has said it was an ICBM, North Korea itself has said that it was an ICBM. If Russia is in need of any intelligence showing that the rest of the world sees it as an ICBM, I am happy to provide it.

Secondly, with regard to being opposed to sanctions on North Korea, the entire Security Council knows that we have repeatedly adopted resolutions after which nothing has happened. If members are happy with North Korea's actions, they should veto those sanctions. If they want to be North Korea's friend, they should veto it. But if they see this as a threat and for what it is — North Korea showing its muscle — they should stand strong and vote with the international community to strengthen sanctions on North Korea. If they choose not to, we will go our own path.

But it makes no sense not to join together on this threat from North Korea. That country has had no care for Russia or China in this. It has not listened to anything that they have said, and it is not going to listen to anything that they say. So it is time that we all stood together and said that we will not put up with this action. Anyone who sits there and opposes sanctions, or goes in defiance of a new resolution, is holding the hands of Kim Jong-un.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to thank my American colleague Ambassador Haley for her comments. We too propose that we work together. The point of my statement was that we can see a meaningful way out of the situation on the Korean peninsula only by combining regional and international forces. It is clearly stated in the relevant resolutions that it is not through sanctions alone but, above all, through political efforts that we can find a way out. That is the task we have ahead of us. History has shown us that sanctions are not a panacea. We should therefore seek a political solution and take the path of creative diplomacy. And as I said in my statement, we propose to work collectively to do that.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7997

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7997th meeting
Monday, 10 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Barro
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mrs. Halchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/53)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Colombia (S/2017/539)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-20867 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/53)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Colombia (S/2017/539)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Colombia to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Her Excellency Ms. María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/583, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by all the members of the Security Council. I would like to thank them for submitting the draft resolution.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/539, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Colombia.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2366 (2017).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Hickey (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by welcoming Foreign Minister Holguín Cuéllar to the Security Council.

The United Kingdom welcomes the Council's unanimous adoption today of resolution 2366 (2017). Last month, President Santos Calderón called on the Council to continue its support for Colombia on its journey towards peace. We are delighted that we have collectively been able to respond so swiftly and so positively to that call by establishing a second United Nations mission to accompany the next phase in Colombia's implementation of Colombia's peace process.

We have witnessed an extraordinary journey in Colombia since we established the first United Nations mission in January 2016. That journey, beginning just 18 months ago, culminated with the FARC laying down its weapons on 27 June and ending the days of Colombia at war. We are privileged to have been able to play a role in support throughout this momentous period.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of the first United Nations Mission, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Arnault and his team in helping the parties reach this remarkable achievement. They have truly exemplified the best that the United Nations has to offer.

But experience from our own history in Northern Ireland has taught us that the hardest part remains ahead. A sustainable and lasting peace will depend on the FARC's successful reincorporation into civilian life. So we welcome the leadership shown again by both parties in calling for United Nations support to accompany this next crucial phase in implementation of the peace process.

As penholder on today's resolution, we have of course consulted closely with the Government of Colombia and the FARC. We have every faith in the commitment President Santos Calderón made during our visit in May that every last comma of the Peace Agreements will be implemented. The FARC leadership told us that they are grateful for the support of the Security Council, including the action it has taken today. They told us that they look forward to the Council

continuing its support in the months and years ahead. I am confident that we will not let the parties down.

Colombia has offered a beacon of hope for the world. This Chamber is no stranger to the worst conflicts and crises of our time. In too many places war is the norm and peace remains a distant dream. Thanks in small part to our efforts and our unity, Colombia is showing that peace is possible. I encourage all of us to continue to demonstrate that unity and stand with all of the people of Colombia during the next phase of the peace process.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to welcome the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Ms. María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, and express on behalf of Uruguay our great satisfaction at the adoption by unanimity of resolution 2366 (2017). We also congratulate and thank the United Kingdom for the successful negotiation of the text.

For Uruguay, this resolution is a renewed demonstration of the unequivocal support of the Security Council for the peace process in Colombia and recognition of the tenacious and indefatigable will of the Colombian Government and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) to achieve a lasting and stable peace. They have once again demonstrated their commitment to peace and, at the same time, the trust they have in the United Nations in by asking for fresh support, this time focusing on the political, economic and social reintegration of the FARC-EP and the implementation of personal and collective security measures for their members as well as comprehensive programmes for security and protection of the communities and organizations in the territories.

We are very pleased with the prompt response of the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, and the Security Council to the request of the parties, which we consider to be very timely at this stage of the peace process in Colombia, referring to aspects that must be dealt with without delay to preserve and strengthen the great achievement embodied in the historic laying-down-of-arms ceremony that took place on 27 June. These are aspects of a peace agreement that the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP have been able make central to the potential, solidity, stability and durability of the peace. To ensure success in the implementation phase, we must not lose sight of the comprehensive focus on making progress through parallel processes in the implementation of the various points of the Agreement.

It is positive and encouraging that there are already different actions all aiming towards the same goal. The resolution adopted today is an example of this, as is the creation of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund of the United Nations for Post-Conflict in Colombia. The positive results obtained in the first year of operations in the selected areas as priorities are a major contribution to stabilizing peace in Colombia. We also welcome with great satisfaction the news of the decision taken by the Secretary General to declare Colombia eligible for additional support from the Peacebuilding Fund for a five-year period.

Once again, we must stress in this Chamber the example that the will and the commitment of Colombians in their unswerving pursuit of peace sets for the world. As my colleague from the United Kingdom has indicated, in this Chamber we are constantly talking about war. Therefore, seeing the light of peace shine in a Colombian process designed, adopted and guided by Colombians — and of course put into practice by Colombians — is a source of immense satisfaction for us all.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation supported the adoption of the resolution 2366 (2017) on the establishment of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia. This new resolution symbolizes a new step on the path to consolidating sustainable peace in the country through a political process and national dialogue. This has been possible exclusively thanks to the efforts of the Colombians themselves.

We welcome the achievement by the participants of a settlement that has led to the important result of the laying down of weapons by the partisans of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), which has opened the path to their full integration into civilian life. In this regard, we note the coordinating role of the United Nations and the contribution of guarantor countries, Cuba and Norway, together with the assistance of Venezuela and Chile.

We welcomed the communiqué of the Government and the FARC of 29 May and what followed on 7 June, namely, the letter of the President of Colombia to the Security Council on the achievement of additional agreements supporting the peace process. We support the request in these documents for the launch today,

10 July, of a new phase of the special political mission, in order for the parties to be able to look to tomorrow with confidence and understand what international assistance will be provided to them.

In working on today's resolution, we assumed that the synchronization of the Mission's mandate with progress in the peace process would be carried out seamlessly. The current mandate of the United Nations Mission in Colombia will therefore continue to act as planned until September, and its financing and staffing will be fully maintained. At the same time, in a step-by-step fashion, the Mission will move to fulfilling isolated monitoring tasks associated with the next step. We hope that this smooth transition will allow the Mission to adapt without rush.

We will continue to carefully monitor the security situation. It is important that we do not allow a vacuum to form. We hope that the parties will work in good faith and fulfil in a timely manner all of their obligations according to the existing agreements. For our part, we intend to continue our efforts, including along the lines of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, to support the Colombian people and Government in building a stable peace and in post-conflict development.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): Kazakhstan voted today in favour of resolution 2366 (2017), which establishes the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia for an initial period of 12 months. This new mission is designed to be the second political mission in the country.

The unanimous adoption of the resolution demonstrates the commitment and determination of the Security Council to ensure the comprehensive and sustained implementation of the historic peace agreement reached between the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC). We believe that, through its transparency, monitoring and verification mechanism, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia will help the parties to attain the far-reaching political and economic reforms agreed in the peace deal, including the economic and social reintegration of former FARC members into society. After successfully completing the first stage of the peace process, which focused on the completion of the disarmament process, Colombia is now entering a new chapter of the peace agreement.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Colombian Government and our colleagues Ms. Holguín Cuéllar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia and Permanent Representative Mejía Vélez, who are present today with us, and most warmly commend efforts to bring lasting peace to the country. Colombia indeed sets a fine example of what can be achieved in other conflict zones and areas of tension in the world when there is a political commitment and the goodwill of all sides to achieve common goals.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2366 (2017), which it co-sponsored, and the establishment of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, mandated to observe and verify compliance with the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. The Mission is entirely consistent with the laying down of arms by the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia on 27 June, which is a vital step in the establishment of a sustainable peace in Colombia.

Once again, we welcome the efforts of the parties in their pursuit of peace regardless of the challenges they face. Colombia is proving to the world that it is able to close the chapter of war and to move resolutely towards peace. I reiterate my thanks to the parties in Colombia and, in particular, hail the visionary and courageous commitment of President Santos Calderón, whom the Foreign Minister represents here today.

The peace process under way in Colombia represents a great source of hope and encouragement for the Council, which has seen so many crises in the course of fulfilling its role as guarantor of the maintenance of peace. Much is at stake and there will be challenges. It is now a question not just achieving peace but, above all, building it and allowing it to take root over the long term. The remarkable commitment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Arnault and his team alongside the parties is a good example of our ability and the ability of the United Nations to provide support. The exemplary results on the ground of the first Mission, deployed in a timely fashion, show that the United Nations is up to the expectations and the trust of the parties.

The adoption of the resolution, in response to the request made last month, allows us to renew our resolute commitment. The new mission that we are setting up at the request of the parties will contribute to verifying the implementation of the guarantees and dividends of peace. France is gratified in that regard and would like

to thank the United Kingdom penholder. France is fully invested in helping Colombia pave the way for peace and will continue to provide its full support to sustain that peace.

French aid now stands at €820 million in loans and donations linked to post-conflict scenarios. We have also contributed €3 million directly to the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. The resolution that we have just adopted represents an essential building block for a process where the United Nations plays an essential role in helping Colombia along the path to a sustainable peace. Please be assured that the United Nations will respond to the call that was made. France will continue to mobilize decisively to ensure that the process is a success, with a view to helping Colombia to open and to win this new chapter in its history.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): I would like to warmly welcome Foreign Minister Holguín Cuéllar to the Chamber. Japan welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2366 (2017) and is pleased to have co-sponsored it. We commend the commitment of the parties in Colombia to the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. The Council has responded to that commitment though today's resolution.

Japan congratulates Colombia on the historic completion of the laying down of arms on 27 June. That is a major step forward for reconciliation. The path to lasting peace will rely on the firm commitment of the parties. We hope that Japanese support for the rehabilitation of victims, post-conflict assistance such as demining and various other efforts, will contribute to the peace process and ultimately to the social and economic development of the people of Colombia.

Much hard work lies ahead. A successful reintegration process is vital to sustaining peace. We appreciate the Colombian initiative for the socioeconomic reintegration of ex-Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) combatants, and emphasize the importance of Government efforts to foster self-sufficiency through capacity-building and education. Proactive security efforts are also needed to secure the vacated areas, deal with armed groups and FARC dissidents, and protect community leaders and human rights defenders. We will strongly support those activities, including via the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, but the Government's role will be central.

Japan will work closely with Colombia and the United Nations to support the parties in implementing the Peace Agreement and continues to stand with the people of Colombia.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia back to the Chamber. We welcome this morning's unanimous adoption of resolution 2366 (2017).

Last year, we witnessed the entry into force of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. The accord represents a historic agreement that paves the way for lasting peace for the Colombian people. We commend the parties for their determination to persevere through the implementation of the Peace Agreement. With the near completion of the disarmament process, we now enter a critical next stage.

The Security Council has recognized that the successful reintegration of ex-combatants and expanding the reach of the Colombian Government to remote areas of the country are both necessary to ensure the long-term success of the peace process.

Our own ongoing assistance to Colombia will focus on, among other things, security, including the Colombian Government's counter-narcotics efforts, as well as its support for the reintegration of ex-combatants, expansion of State institutions and presence in former rebel areas, including rural economic development, justice services, the military's civil engineering units, and humanitarian demining.

We recognize that the road ahead will pose challenges, but I assure you that the United States is fully committed to the implementation of the peace accord and to the promotion of security, justice, prosperity, and respect for human rights for all Colombians.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): We are delighted to have Foreign Minister Holguín Cuéllar here today.

I want to begin by congratulating the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) for reaching another historic milestone in the peace process with the successful laying down of individual arms by FARC-EP on 27 June. We commend the strong commitment of both sides and their efforts to overcome challenges in the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace that resulted in this historic achievement.

The United Nations Mission in Colombia has played an important role in support of the peace process. We would like to thank the United Nations Mission in Colombia and Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jean Arnault, for their excellent work. A second political mission in Colombia will support the parties in building trust and overcoming challenges for the next stage of this historic process.

Sweden voted in favour of resolution 2366 (2017). We are proud to sponsor it and would like to take this opportunity to express Sweden's continued firm commitment to Colombia and to the United Nations mission.

The political, economic and social reincorporation of former combatants is now among the main challenges moving forward. The violence against human rights defenders and community leaders and the killings of FARC-EP members and their families show the urgent need for a second mission to also verify the implementation of personal and collective security guarantees, as requested by the parties. To this end, the Mission must have sufficient presence locally and regionally to fulfil its mandate.

A committed and sustained effort is now needed from all parts of the State, as well as the United Nations and the international community, in support of the wider peace agreement, including comprehensive rural reform, so that it can rapidly deliver tangible peace dividends for all Colombians.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to seize the opportunity to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia to this historic meeting of the Council. We are honoured to be part of this event.

Resolution 2366 (2017), which was just adopted, is the outcome of collective efforts for peace in Colombia. It pushes the peace forward towards a new era, based on solid ground and with the full and strong support of the United Nations. It lays the foundation for sustaining peace and prevents the relapse into conflict based on national ownership which includes a clear strategy set by the Government and other parties to the conflict. I would like to commend the firm commitment of the parties to the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, despite the major challenges that they both faced throughout the past year.

The adoption of this resolution highlights the unanimous will to support the Government in its efforts to achieve peace. Egypt therefore sponsored and voted in favour of the resolution as an indication of our firm support for the Colombian Government and for bringing sustainable and lasting peace to that country.

Before I conclude, I would like to point out the important lesson to be learned from the peace process in Colombia. We should gather lessons that we can use as we look into other dossiers on the Council's agenda. The experience of Colombia proved that political solutions, the commitment of the parties to a conflict, the support of regional States and the United Nations, and coordination among the different parties concerned, in addition to the unity of the Council as it deals with certain topics, have all contributed directly to ending the conflict and achieving sustainable peace.

In conclusion, once again, Egypt commends the people and Government of Colombia on achieving this historic agreement.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): Italy welcomes the outcome of today's voting. It testifies once again to the unanimous support of the Security Council to the peace process in Colombia. Italy would like to praise the parties for confirming, with the completion of the laying down of arms and the start of the reintegration process, that firm commitment and strong leadership are key to the peaceful solution of conflicts. Also, we commend the Security Council for showing its responsiveness and capacity to take a unified, timely and context-specific action.

Allow me to underline that peace is a process, irreversible in this case, thanks to the strong resolve of President Santos Calderón and of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, but still present challenges that must not be overlooked. We especially commend in this respect the Government of Colombia for its efforts in delivering security, services and economic opportunities to the entire population across the country. We also commend the Government for the steps undertaken to curb illegal activities and organized crime, and will continue to offer bilateral cooperation to that end and also in the framework of the European Union.

I would like to conclude by underscoring that the role played by the United Nations in Colombia and by the Council is setting an example of flexibility, effectiveness and respect of the ownership of the

parties. The Council will continue to assist the peace process in line with the principle guiding our joint effort to strengthen the United Nations as, first and foremost, a facilitator and a builder of peace. Italy will continue to support the Security Council action in this direction.

Ms. Guadey (Ethiopia): We welcome the unanimous adoption of resolution 2366 (2017) establishing the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia to verify the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC). We express appreciation to the penholder for its efforts in drafting and facilitating the negotiation on this important resolution and we are pleased to have co-sponsored it. Ensuring the continued and united support of the Council will be critical for the success of the Mission and the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

Let me take this opportunity to express our congratulations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, who is at this meeting today for the adoption of this important resolution, for the remarkable progress that her country has achieved so far with regard to turning the corner against conflict and embarking on a path to sustainable peace. We commend the United Nations Mission in Colombia for all the good work it has been doing in support of those efforts.

Just a week ago, we had the opportunity to discuss the situation in Colombia and we welcome the important and historic milestone that the country has reached in implementing the Peace Agreement with the completion of the laying down of individual weapons held by the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia and their return to the United Nations for registration and storage. This significant development, alongside the holding of the bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities between the Government and FARC, strengthen our optimism for lasting peace in the country.

Once again, we commend both the Government and FARC for their political will and commitment to advancing the implementation of the Peace Agreement. Of course, we understand that this is only the beginning of a long and arduous process and there are difficult issues that lie ahead, including the implementation of the amnesty law, the reintegration of the FARC combatants to civilian life and the implementation of personal and collective security and protection measures and others. We also recognize the potential complication ahead in relation to the upcoming general elections due to take place in May 2018. Therefore, it is imperative that the parties continue to stay the course and the positive momentum generated recently is sustained to achieve the difficult transition to peace. In this regard, the role of the United Nations Mission in Colombia continues to be critical to further consolidate the gains of the Peace Agreement. That is why we have supported the establishment of a second United Nations mission upon the completion of the mandate of the current Mission.

Finally, we want to reaffirm our continued support to the full implementation of the Colombian Peace Agreement and express our solidarity with the people and Government of Colombia as they continue their efforts to make the transition towards sustainable peace.

Mrs. Halchenko (Ukraine) (*spoke in Spanish*): Ukraine reiterates its support to Colombia's efforts to implement the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. We congratulate the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia — Ejercito del Pueblo for reaching, on 27 June, another historic milestone in the peace process with the successful completion of the laying down of individual weapons. At the same time it is a source of pride for us that the United Nations, through its Mission in Colombia, contributed to the implementation of the agreements on the laying down of weapons and the ceasefire. We would like the United Nations to have more of this kind of achievement. That is why we believe that the United Nations should carefully study the lessons of Colombia so as to apply its best practices in other parts of the world.

Effective reintegration is the key to lasting peace. During its visit to Colombia in May, the Security Council clearly demonstrated that in order to guarantee a stable and lasting peace, it is essential to ensure reintegration and reconciliation, with special attention to the needs of the most affected and vulnerable groups. In that context, we commend today's historic adopt of resolution 2366 (2017), establishing the second United Nations mission in Colombia. At the same time, we express our appreciation and gratitude to the British delegation for its leadership and intense work, which has culminated in the successful adoption of the document.

The Security Council should continue to play a proactive role in supporting the parties on their path

towards the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. Today's decision will contribute to strengthening the United Nations role in peacebuilding in post-conflict situations, and provide the necessary support to strengthen peace, human rights and development for the benefit of all Colombian citizens.

Mr. Barro (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I extend the condolences of Senegal to the Government and the people of Egypt following the violent terrorist attack targeting Egyptian soldiers on 7 July, killing 23.

We also welcome the presence among us of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

I further wish to thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for its excellent work as penholder and for introducing resolution 2366 (2017), which we have just adopted. We welcome the unity of the Council, which must remain active in helping Colombia in this crucial phase and in consolidating its gains. Senegal welcomes the important progress that has been made in the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Government and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), ending a conflict that lasted more than 50 years.

The people of Colombia owe this progress above all to the commitment of the Government of Colombia, as well as to the leaders of FARC, in particular in the framework of the disarmament process. Through these actions, both parties have shown their deep commitment and devotion to peace. They deserve our support and encouragement, particularly in overcoming the few obstacles that remain on the long road to sustainable peace.

I believe that the Security Council's visit from 3 to 5 May made a significant contribution to establishing a climate of trust between the parties. It is very important that, at this stage of the implementation process of the Peace Agreement, efforts be redoubled with respect to building the FARC camps within the relevant communities, while ensuring the security of former FARC combatants and their reintegration into society, not only as a political force but also as active participants in economic life. Senegal reiterates its full and unwavering support for the deployment of the new United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, whose ultimate objective is the follow-up of the Peace Agreement.

In conclusion, I reaffirm Senegal's support for peace in Colombia, in the reasonable hope that, with the Final Peace Agreement and the support of the international community, Colombia will put an end to a conflict that lasted too long.

Mr. Inchauste Jordán (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Ms. María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, for her presence in the Chamber today.

The Security Council has unanimously adopted resolution 2366 (2017), establishing the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia to monitor the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, demonstrating its unshakeable support for the peace process in Colombia. Bolivia is proud to have co-sponsored the resolution.

As we have noted previously, this process is succceeding because the Government and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia — Ejercito del Pueblo (FARC-EP) are in ongoing dialogue because their ultimate goal is peace. This attitude of dialogue and understanding must now be maintained and strengthened as we enter the most difficult part of the process — the political, social and economic reintegration of FARC-EP and the implementation of personal and collective security guarantees. This phase is a true challenge.

The killings of community leaders and human rights champions linked to the guerrillas or their families, dissidents who encourage hate speech and non-reconciliation, the underground economy and other factors are challenges that highlight the complexity of the reintegration process. The Government and FARC-EP have placed their trust once again in the Security Council and the United Nations, and we welcome the fact that the Council has demonstrated its unanimous support for Colombia. We should like to see the process held up as an example to the entire world.

We also wish to thank the current Mission, headed by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Jean Arnault and his team, for the commitment they have shown to their work in the first stage. Their work is critical and enjoys the unconditional support of Bolivia.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of China.

China welcomes the presence of Ms. María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, in today's meeting. In January 2016, at the request of the Government of Colombia and other parties, the Council authorized for the first time the deployment of the United Nations Mission in Colombia to support the advancement of the peace process in the country. Over the past year, the peace process in Colombia has made important headway. China appreciates the efforts of President Santos Calderón and the relevant parties in Colombia, as well as the Government of Colombia. We also thank the United Nations Mission in Colombia and the relevant countries for contributing to the advancement of the peace process in Colombia.

The unanimous adoption of resolution 2366 (2017) today by the Council on the deployment of the second mission in Colombia — the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia — once again sends a positive signal in support of that country's peace process. It will give strong impetus to the full implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace in Colombia. The advance of the peace process in Colombia not only is conducive to maintaining peace and stability in Latin America, but also has important reference value to the Council in promoting solutions to hotspot issues in other countries and regions.

We hope that Government of Colombia and other parties will be united in promoting the advancement of new achievements in the peace process and thereby set a good example for the international community in addressing conflicts appropriately. We also hope that the Secretariat will continue to respect the leadership of Colombia in the peace process, enhance communication and coordination with the Government and the relevant parties, put forward constructive options and proposals regarding the size and mandate of the Verification Mission, and make effective preparations for the peace process in the country to yield greater results.

China will work with other members of the Council in making new contributions to lasting peace security, prosperity and development in Colombia.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

Ms. Holguín Cuéllar (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I thank you, Mr. President, the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China, for having convened this meeting. I wish you every success in your work.

With regard to the work and preparations on today's resolution 2366 (2017), I would like to express our particular gratitude to the Government of the United Kingdom and to Ambassador Matthew Rycroft and the diplomats at the Permanent Mission, as well as especially to Ms. Catherine Carr for her availability and role as penholder on the resolution.

I am very moved in thanking all of the members of the Security Council for adopting this new resolution. The Council has just adopted its third resolution in support of peace in Colombia. We are grateful to the members of the Council for remaining united on this matter and for their ongoing dialogue over the past year and a half. The Council's visit to Columbia last May allowed members to better understand the reality of Colombia, the strength of our institutions, our desire for peace and reintegration as well as the challenges we have faced in the months of implementing the Agreement. That understanding is fundamental to maintaining support for the steps that Colombia is continuing to take in order to consolidate peace and build a prosperous, modern society throughout all regions of the country, especially in the countryside, which is our main challenge.

Fostering political participation, greater equity and improved justice will be fundamental to become the country that we want to be — one of opportunities, growth and education, but above all a tolerant and reconciled country. That vision is one of a nation that seeks to overcome the dynamics of the conflict and violence and that has tirelessly for decades sought coexistence and peace. The participation of the Council has between very important in strengthening the building of trust between the two parties that negotiated the peace. Likewise, the support of the international community in the process has made it possible to maintain the determination to overcome difficult moments. As this resolution is adopted, the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) have handed over their individual weapons — a process guaranteed by the first United

Nations special Mission. The members of the FARC must now turn over the remaining weapons in their cashes, which the United Nations has been receiving. The process should come to a conclusion in two months.

The second special political Mission, which begins when the first one ends, will have a specific mandate to verify the actions we will be taking in implementation of the agreements related to political, economic and social reintegration, security and protection guarantees. This peace process has been built by Colombians for Colombians. It should serve as a reason for all of us to hope in a better future. Nevertheless, as in any robust democracy, a lively debate is taking place. But, little by little, people are beginning to see the benefits of peace and are willing to give it a chance. The dividends of peace are especially being felt in the countryside and rural areas, where live millions of Colombians suffered the consequences of the conflict much more than we who live in the cities.

This peace and reconciliation process has had unique characteristics, which we know the world is watching as a model and which could be used as lessons learned. Our process — according not to us, but to experts on peace agreements — has been the first in the world in which victims participated in negotiations and were at the centre of the process. The armed forces had direct participation and where present during the negotiations, contributing their knowledge and vision of the Agreement, especially with regard to the ceasefire and the laying down of weapons. More than 70 per cent of the Peace Agreement includes measures that will mean social and economic transformations for Columbia. It has been crucial to ensure the strengthening of institutions and legislative development for sustainable implementation over time. Lastly, the determination of the parties and the support of the international community made it possible to overcome challenges at critical moments.

Once again, we thank the Governments of Norway and Cuba, as guarantor countries, as well as Chile and Venezuela as accompanying countries of the process. We are grateful to all of the members of the Security Council, to the Secretary-General for his interest and commitment and to the members of the special Mission in Columbia, in particular Mr. Jean Arnault. Against that backdrop, I would like to reiterate to the Security Council and to the United Nations the unwavering commitment of my Government to peace and to implementing all aspects of the Agreement. In this the final year of the current Government, we will not rest in implementing the Agreement. We trust that Colombia's commitment to the Organization and our society will continue under future Governments.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our determination to build a society that allows us to dream and live in a Colombia that is at peace and more equitable.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7998

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7998th meeting
Tuesday, 11 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Wu Haitao	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Fernández Revollo
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Biagini
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Fesko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the political agreement of 31 December 2016 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2017/435)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2017/565)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-21001 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the political agreement of 31 December 2016 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2017/435)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2017/565)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/435, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the political agreement of 31 December 2016 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/565, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I now give the floor to Mr. Lacroix.

Mr. Lacroix (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. My statement will focus on three points. First, I will address the political situation, specifically with regard to the implementation of the agreement of 31 December 2016, which is designed to govern the transition under way and lay the groundwork for elections. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General dated 30 June (S/2017/565), the implementation of that agreement by and large remains insufficient. Secondly, I will refer to the security situation in certain areas of the eastern and western parts of the country, which is characterized by an increase in clashes between armed groups and national security forces. In part, that situation is responsible for the disturbing increase in violations of human rights. It is also the reason for the deterioration in the humanitarian situation. Between May and June, the number of people displaced in Democratic Republic of the Congo increased by 26 per cent, totalling 1.3 million persons. In that context — and this will be my third point — the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) is working to respond to the challenges facing the country and continuing its adjustment efforts, as I was able to observe during my visit to the country few weeks ago.

Six months ago, when President Kabila's second term was ending, the signing of the 31 December 2016 agreement by all the political stakeholders involved helped to avert a serious crisis. The agreement marked the culmination of many months of tension and negotiations and outlined the transition to elections at the end of 2017, which is currently under way. With less than six months to go before the elections, however, not all the transitional institutions are in place, and the consensus that characterized the progress being made a few months ago has gradually eroded.

The Rassemblement des forces politiques et sociales acquises au changement, the platform uniting various opposition parties, has dissociated itself from recent developments. On 27 April it was not among the signatories to the special arrangement for implementing the agreement. On 16 May, its members were absent when Parliament inducted the transitional Government, and we fear that this erosion of the political consensus has also been detrimental to the establishment of the Conseil national de suivi de l'accord. The situation could make it even harder to maintain the spirit of collaboration and consensus approach that the political landscape in the Democratic Republic of the Congo needs. That is why Mr. Maman Sidikou, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region, have been making every effort to exercise their good offices with a view to convincing all the relevant political actors of the importance of implementing the agreement as fully and quickly as

possible. It was with the aim of supporting their efforts that I visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo in mid-June. During my discussions I stressed the crucial importance of implementing the commitments made six months ago, and I had an opportunity to reiterate my appeal to President Kabila.

I would like to note, however, that despite the sense we have at times of an impasse, the progress being made on voter registration in 24 of the 26 provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a source of encouragement. By 10 July, under the leadership of the Independent National Electoral Commission and with MONUSCO's active support, at least 33 million voters, of an estimated total of nearly 41 million, had been registered. However, the security issues in the provinces of Kasai and Kasai Central have made registration there problematic. We should also be concerned about the Commission's delay in publishing the election calendar, as well as the continuing uncertainty surrounding the financing of the elections, despite the Government's efforts to disburse the agreed budget in the past few months. Finally, the Chair of the Commission's recent announcement about the impossibility of holding the elections by the end of the year is another reason for concern. At a time when the Democratic Republic of the Congo is midway through its transition, it is more essential than ever to ensure that the national political actors and international partners, including the members of the Security Council, mobilize once again to get the political agreement of 31 December 2016 back on track.

(*spoke in English*)

As noted in the Secretary-General's report, the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to be a major worry. Instability persists in a number of areas in the east and west. In the east, a recent spate of attacks by armed groups against the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) has added a layer of complexity to an already volatile security landscape. In North Kivu province in particular, Mayi-Mayi groups, among others, recently conducted raids against FARDC positions, a new phenomenon that MONUSCO is assessing. In the meantime, clashes between ethnically based militias in North Kivu have continued. In South Kivu, armed groups have been increasingly involved in disputes related to customary succession and in intercommunal and transhumance-related disputes. In Ituri, the Force de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI) continues to pose the single greatest threat to civilians. Conflicts in neighbouring Burundi and South Sudan have been spilling over into the eastern provinces of Ituri and South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In response, MONUSCO has continued to support the FARDC in operations against the FRPI in Ituri and the Lord's Resistance Army in Haut-Uélé. The Mission is also supporting local and community dialogue efforts in North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Tanganyika, in an approach based on the belief that, while military means may sometimes be necessary, only a political solution can effectively address the root causes of the various conflicts that threaten civilians.

The violence in the Kasai provinces, in the western region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has reached disturbing levels. The Kamuina Nsapu militia has targeted and killed dozens of civilians, customary chiefs, public servants and security officers. It has also attacked voter registration centres, schools and religious institutions. For example, in a series of clashes with the FARDC in Kazumba territory between 25 and 28 April, 41 militia members and 12 soldiers were killed. The recent increase of inter-ethnic violence in the Kasai region is just as worrying. In April, for example, violence between Pende and Tshokwe communities reportedly aligned with the Government, and Luba and Lulua communities reportedly associated with the Kamuina Nsapu militia, led to the deaths of 38 people in Kamonia territory in Kasai province. MONUSCO has also received reports of summary executions and rapes, including of civilians by the security forces.

In response to the developments in the Kasai provinces, MONUSCO has established a small and mobile presence in various locations in order to help protect civilians. It has deployed personnel in Bulungu, Luiza and Tshimbulu, in Kasai Central province, and reinforced its existing presence in Kananga and Mbuji-Mayi. Through a combination of human rights monitoring and political outreach, supported by a light but increasing military presence, the Mission is helping to bring back some measure of stability wherever it can. In Tshimbulu, for example, the deployment in May of a standing combat deployment has helped to enable internally displaced people to return. Schools and churches have reopened and the Mission is supporting the local authorities in their mediation work. Despite those efforts, there continue to be disturbing reports of human rights violations and abuses on an almost daily basis. Dozens of mass graves have been reported. So

far, national investigation efforts have been slow. The Mbuji-Mayi military court's recent conviction of seven FARDC officers involved in the killing of civilians in Mwanza Lomba is a small but encouraging step in the right direction. I welcome the Human Rights Council's recent resolution requesting that international investigators be appointed to assist the authorities in that regard.

Throughout my recent visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I stressed the importance of prioritizing political means in addressing the situation in the Kasai provinces and emphasized the urgency of ensuring accountability for the crimes committed, including crimes by members of the security forces. I also underscored the determination of the United Nations to ensure that those responsible for the killing of our colleagues Michael Sharp and Zaida Catalán are brought to justice. I was encouraged by the assurances that President Kabila gave me regarding his determination to ensure that the crimes committed in the Kasais do not go unpunished. Such statements of intention must, however, be followed by concrete action. The level of cooperation and support that the Government provides to the team of international investigators appointed by the Human Rights Council will be a test of its commitment to accountability.

MONUSCO continues to adjust its posture in response to a rapidly changing environment and to focus on supporting the implementation of the 31 December agreement in order to pave the way for holding elections and to protect civilians. I count on the Council's continued support to our ongoing efforts to transform the Mission into a more agile, flexible and responsive tool. I am committed to ensuring that MONUSCO delivers on its core mandated objectives as efficiently and effectively as possible and that it continues to evolve in response to the changing situation on the ground. In the current financial context, it will be critical to ensure that the Mission makes the best possible use of the resources at its disposal by focusing on a limited set of key priorities. The strategic review of the Mission is under way and, as requested, we will be presenting the Council with options by 30 September.

The current political impasse, the rising insecurity, and the worsening human rights and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo require a concerted response from regional and international partners. That response must aim to help to create the conditions for a successful transition and the holding of free, fair and inclusive elections, in accordance with the Constitution. The Secretariat and MONUSCO are determined to work with the Congolese Government and people to achieve that goal. Together, we must preserve the hard-won gains of the past 17 years and pave the way for the Mission's exit.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Lacroix for his briefing.

I now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish at the outset to thank Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, for his very enlightening briefing and for the tireless commitment of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to the Congolese people.

This meeting is being held at a critical moment, six months after the signing of the political agreement of 31 December 2016 and three months after the adoption of an innovative mandate for MONUSCO. It allows us to review developments in the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to reaffirm our shared priorities. I should like to lay out France's assessment of three aspects: the growing political backlog; the worrisome deterioration of the security situation and human rights, in particular in the Kasais; and the welcome responsiveness of MONUSCO in implementing the mandate set forth in resolution 2348 (2017).

First, as to the growing delays in the implementation of the 31 December agreement is of concern to France as the deadline for holding elections approaches. The agreement is the only credible road map for the end of the crisis. That is why the lack of consensus and the systematic blockages in its implementation are very worrying. Elections must take place in less than six months, time is running out. It is therefore urgent that the Government take the steps necessary to reaffirm its commitment to respecting the provisions of the agreement. The organization of elections, the effective establishment of the National Council for Oversight of the Agreement and the implementation of confidence-building measures are priorities.

We welcome the progress made on voter registration. That is a positive step forward and a dynamic that needs to be pursued. We regret, however, the delays in the

registration process, in particular in the three provinces of Kasai and Kinshasa. We call on the authorities to take the measures necessary to finalize the registration and the voter register. I wish to stress that compliance with the deadlines set out in the agreement is essential. France calls on the Congolese authorities to take all the measures necessary to organize the elections as soon as possible and recalls the need for an urgent publication of an electoral timetable in accordance with the provisions of the 31 December agreement. These advances are all the more urgent as the current impass is already leading to an increase in areas of instability in the country.

Secondly, the unprecedented intensification of violence in the west is particularly alarming and requires our full attention. Violence in the Kasais has reached an unsustainable level. The clashes between the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo and Kamwina Nsapu militia are taking a heavy toll on the populations, as evidenced by the continued increase in the number of displaced persons and refugees.

We are also very concerned about the rapid spread of insecurity to Tanganyika and the increasing intercommunity conflicts in these regions. In that regard, I join the Secretary-General in condemning the attacks in the strongest possible terms and in calling on the belligerents to lay down their arms in order to put an end to this climate of insecurity and its disastrous humanitarian consequences. The escape of detainees, which is increasing in unusual proportions, also adds to growing insecurity.

A key aspect of the resolution of this crisis will be the response of the Congolese authorities to the fight against impunity. We call on the Congolese authorities to deploy the means necessary to investigate these violations thoroughly, identify those responsible and take appropriate measures to ensure that they are held accountable, irrespective of their affiliation. We welcome the adoption by the Human Rights Council on 23 June — by consensus and with the agreement of the Democratic Republic of the Congo — of the resolution authorizing the dispatch of a mission of international experts, in cooperation with the Congolese authorities. We call on the Congolese authorities to cooperate fully with that team of international experts.

Thirdly, we commend the significant efforts made by MONUSCO to adapt to the mandate provided for in resolution 2348 (2017). MONUSCO responded quickly to the adjustments provided for in that resolution. It must focus on its two priorities: the protection of civilians and support for the implementation of the 31 December agreement. We welcome the rapid translation of this reconfiguration of the Mission on the ground, and encourage it to pursue its efforts in that direction.

In conclusion, France reiterates once again the importance of the consensual implementation of all the provisions of the 31 December agreement, which is the framework agreed by all the Congolese parties for the transition towards the holding of elections. Failure to comply with one or more of its provisions would entail significant risks for the stability of the entire region, including a deterioration of security, outbreaks of violence, political destabilization and repercussions for the human rights situation and humanitarian and socioeconomic conditions. This scenario is, unfortunately, unfolding before our eyes now, as evidenced by the upsurge of violence in the Kasais, in Tanganyika and in the east of the country. France therefore solemnly calls on all political actors to redouble their efforts to meet the commitments made last December and to organize the elections. There is an urgent need to do so.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I would not normally take of the floor ahead of consultations, but as both Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and the Ambassador of France have expressed so clearly, these simply are not normal times for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Indeed, for many people in the Kasai region, these are the darkest moments of their lives. The reports emanating from that region should send a shiver down each and every spine in the Chamber. They are reports that bear all the hallmarks of the very worst of humankind: mass killings, beheadings, mass graves, millions displaced.

Sadly, as highlighted by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, the Government's own security forces are responsible for much of this death and destruction in certain areas of the Kasai provinces. Nearly 100 children have been maimed and killed by their own Government's forces, and children have been sexually abused by Government forces. This represents a wider, worrying trend. The Secretary-General reports that 60 per cent of 1,444 human rights violations and abuses recorded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the past three months have been committed by the forces of the Government — the same Government that bears the primary responsibility to protect its citizens. When

faced with hell, people should be able to look to their Government in hope. For the people of the Kasai, they do so only in fear.

This does not mean that the militia operating in these areas are innocent — not by any stretch of the imagination. As we heard from Under-Secretary-General Lacroix, they too are responsible for rape, killing and high levels of child recruitment.

It is clear that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo compels us all to take a stand. That is why we welcome the international investigation mandated by the Human Rights Council last month. It must act as soon as possible and be conducted to international standards of independence and transparency. We urge the Government to cooperate fully with the investigation. Those responsible for these horrific crimes must be held to account.

Sadly, the situation in the Kasai is by no means an isolated example in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There is also renewed violence in the east of the country, much of which has a worrying ethnic dimension. Such violence in different areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo only further reinforces our belief that political uncertainty and instability in Kinshasa are fuelling violent uncertainty and violent instability across the country, and this is now presenting a serious threat to regional stability.

We all know what needs to happen, and the Ambassador of France set that out very clearly. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo knows what it needs to do — stop the violence, ensure accountability for the violations and abuses and implement the 31 December agreement in full. As set out in the agreement, elections should be held in six months. We simply must see progress that gives the Congolese people and the world the confidence that this will be realized. That is the issue that is fundamentally increasing frustration and tensions in the country.

To deliver on this, the Independent National Electoral Commission must release an electoral timetable setting a date for elections, in line with the 31 December agreement, and agree a budget so that vital international funds can be released. Let me take this opportunity to welcome the progress in electoral registration and the positive role played by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of that. But this progress must continue; insecurity cannot be used as an excuse for further delay.

In truth, none of this new. We have known what needs to happen for some time. It is clear that our message is simply not getting through to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The killings have continued; the horror has continued. What has failed to continue is genuine implementation of the 31 December agreement, which laid the path towards elections. It is therefore incumbent upon all of us in the Council to do more. With the eyes of the world looking on us today in an open meeting, I ask all Council members to support a clear, unequivocal message: stop the violence, hold those responsible for violations and abuses to account and implement the 31 December agreement in full and without delay.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): You will no doubt notice, Mr. President, that I am very pleased today to not be speaking alone in an open meeting of the Security Council, as is usually the case. As a result, as I said, we are quite pleased to be in such good company this morning vis-à-vis our membership.

I would like to thank Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, for presenting the Secretary-General's reports (S/2017/435 and S/2017/565). I would also like to reiterate our gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Maman Sidikou, and to the entire team and staff of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) for the work they have been carrying out in more than complex conditions. We reiterate once again Uruguay's commitment to stability and peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, not only in our capacity as a non-permanent member of the Security Council but also as a country that has contributed troops in Congo over the past 16 years without interruption.

We are at a critical point for the future of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As already mentioned, six months ago the comprehensive and inclusive political agreement was signed thanks to the significant mediation efforts by the National Episcopal Conference of the Congo, which generated expectations for a peaceful solution to the crisis. In six months, and before the end of the year and in accordance with the agreement, elections are supposed to be held, leading to a peaceful transfer of power. At this point, halfway

through the year, there is serious concern about the slow and limited progress in the implementation of the political agreement, as well as about the deepening of certain adverse trends in the situation of the country.

Uruguay reiterates its support for the political agreement, which we believe is the only viable solution to the crisis, and urges all the political actors to fully implement the agreement. It is crucial for the parties to step up their efforts in implementing the transition arrangements, in setting up the national council to follow up the implementation of the agreement and in instituting confidence-building measures. All of these elements are provided for in the agreement.

The report of the Secretary-General contained in document S/2017/565 and Mr Lacroix's briefing give an account of an ongoing worsening of several negative trends with respect to the situation of the country, mainly in the areas of security and human rights. We are concerned about the spread of insecurity in the western part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There has been an increase in violence among ethnic communities, particularly in the Kasai region. Instability persists in many sectors in the eastern part of the country, due in large part to the activities of armed groups and militias. The risk of violence in the main urban areas has grown in the light of the looming electoral context. This new outlook poses serious threats to a growing number of civilians, many of whom have been forced to relocate within the country or in neighbouring countries.

Uruguay expresses its deep concern over the continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are struck by the significant increase in the number of violations that have been documented by MONUSCO month after month, affecting above all vulnerable populations, such as children and women. But we are even more struck by the fact that State actors have been responsible for more than half of documented human rights violations.

We are also concerned by the trend towards maintaining restrictions on the democratic space, with an increase in violations of civil and political rights, in particular the freedoms of peaceful assembly, opinion, expression and thought. Uruguay reiterates that it is the responsibility of the Government to respect and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. We urge the national authorities to act swiftly to commence investigations and prosecutions in order to bring to justice those responsible for violations of human rights as well as to fight impunity.

In conclusion, Uruguay acknowledges MONUSCO's efforts to readjust its priorities and its mandate with a view to transforming the force to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. However, I would reiterate on this occasion what we said during the mandate-renewal debate last March with respect to reducing the number of MONUSCO troops. At a time when there is a obvious increase in violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we are even more concerned about comments on possible new reductions in the coming months. As for the strategic review of MONUSCO that the Secretariat will carry out in the next few weeks in order to adapt the Mission's mandate to the new requirements, we fully confirm that the recommendations arising therefrom will be based on a frank assessment of the current situation on the ground, which, in our opinion, is not at all encouraging.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): Let me thank Under-Secretary-General Lacroix for the presentation of a very insightful report of the Secretary-General on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2017/565).

Since our previous meeting in March (see S/PV.7903), the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has remained fragile and dangerous. The political agreement of 31 December 2016 has yet to be implemented. It is a matter of concern that the new Government, which was sworn in before the National Assembly on 16 May, was not recognized by the Rassemblement des forces politiques et sociales de la République démocratique du Congo acquises au changement. We reiterate our call to all stakeholders in the country to implement the 31 December agreement through peaceful dialogue.

The implementation of the agreement must be supported and reinforced by regional States and organizations through the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. Under these circumstances, the swift organization of the presidential elections by the end of 2017 is critically important in order to avoid turning the intensified political tensions into a full-fledged conflict. We welcome the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the assistance of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic

of the Congo (MONUSCO), in completing the voter registration process in the near future.

Kazakhstan commends the activities of MONUSCO to support the implementation of the 31 December agreement and the electoral process. We strongly condemn the activities of all armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and their violations, especially those involving attacks on the civilian population, United Nations personnel and humanitarian actors; summary executions; sexual and gender-based violence; and large-scale recruitment and the use of children against international law. All armed groups must drop their weapons and cease immediately all forms of violence. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo should maintain a high level of cooperation with MONUSCO and conduct joint operations to neutralize those armed groups. This is also important in order to register all voters and prepare for the elections of the troubled Kasai and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo regions.

As we heard from Ms. Gamba de Potgieter last Thursday, the scale of human rights violations against children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in the Kasai region, has been the greatest it has ever been for the past few years. Therefore, I would like to reiterate that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo bears a primary responsibility for the protection of the entire civilian population, first and foremost women and children. With regard to the killing of two United Nations experts, Kazakhstan believes that comprehensive, credible and transparent criminal investigations by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo must continue in order to bring all perpetrators to justice.

The humanitarian situation in the country, exacerbated by the ongoing violence in the Kasai region and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, has continued to deteriorate since the beginning of 2017. The downward macroeconomic trend and poor socioeconomic situation are aggravating the humanitarian situation as well. The United Nations system, international financial institutions and the African Development Bank must strengthen the peace-development nexus to support the humanitarian and political process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I thank Under Secretary-General Lacroix for his briefing. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2017/565).

Like others, we are deeply concerned about the scale of violence, violations of international humanitarian law and the grave human rights violations and abuses taking place with widespread impunity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo right now. The situation in the Kasai, as well as the negative development in the eastern part of the country, are particularly worrying. Children are disproportionally affected, as we have heard. We must act with determination to ensure that these violations come to an end and prevent further conflicts from erupting or spreading. Political means must be given priority.

The implementation of the 31 December agreement, paving the way for free, peaceful and credible elections, is key in that regard. We again call upon all signatories to fully implement the agreement, which, together with a sustainable settlement of outstanding issues in the political process, provides the only viable way out of the current humanitarian, economic and security crisis.

We again welcome the important work conducted by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mamam Sidikou in his good offices function, and we support his call on the Independent National Electoral Commission to publish without delay an official and consensual calendar for the organization of the elections.

A peaceful and stable Democratic Republic of the Congo is critical for stability in the subregion and the region as a whole. We encourage constructive, concerted and continuous engagement by regional actors. In that context, we welcome the joint delegation of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern Africa Development Community, the African Union and the United Nations in Kinshasa in May and hope for a speedy follow-up.

The mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which we adopted this spring, with its focus on support for the political process, compels the United Nations to act strategically and efficiently. We stand ready for continuous and close consultations with the Secretariat to ensure the Mission's ability to fulfil the mandated tasks, not least related to the protection of civilians. The strategic review will provide important input to such discussions.

We welcome and fully support the Human Rights Council resolution co-sponsored by us requesting the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to dispatch a team of international experts, including from the region, to investigate allegations of gross violations and abuses in the Kasai region. We urge the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate fully with the investigation team and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in this regard.

Lastly, no stone should be left unturned in our efforts to deliver justice for those who lost their lives in the service of the United Nations, including the two United Nations experts — Zaida Catalán and Michael Sharp. Sweden, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and partners concerned, will continue to look into concrete proposals on how the United Nations system, including the Council, can further support the ongoing national investigations in order to establish the truth and bring the perpetrators to justice. One such option would be an additional investigative mechanism.

Mr. Fernández Revollo (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin by thanking Under-Secretary-General Lacroix for his briefing. The information he provided is very useful in order to understand the importance of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Bolivia expresses its concern about the grave violence spread by armed groups, which affects civilians, increases the number of internally displaced persons, incites intercommunal clashes and increases insecurity, all of which the Congolese people are victims of, in particular the most vulnerable — women and children.

Similarly, we are concerned about the worsening of the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/565) points out that 1,444 human rights violations were committed between March and May. According to data by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in the Kasai region, one of the regions most affected by violence, more than 500 boys and girls were recruited by armed groups. There have been 600 cases of sexual violence reported since August 2016, and there have been many cases of human trafficking, summary executions and arbitrary arrests. Bolivia condemns any act of sexual exploitation and abuse, which must be duly investigated and brought to justice in the competent Courts so that this type of violence does not go unpunished.

There are now 1.4 million internally displaced persons in the Kasai region, and a total of 3.8 million internally displaced persons throughout the entire country. Moreover, more than 400,000 children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition in Ituri province, and it is estimated that 3.5 million children are affected throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In half of the 26 provinces that are affected by armed violence, civilians have suffered not only the loss of lives, but they also lack access to health and other service, as hospitals and medical centres have been targets of attacks by armed groups, which has led to a serious humanitarian crisis.

We call for the stepping up the efforts of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and its staff in order to bring security to civilians and to neutralize the armed groups in the country, including increasing the community alert networks and improvements in early warning mechanisms. MONUSCO is called upon to play a more active role in that respect.

Concerning the political agreement signed on 31 December 2016 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between the Government and the opposition, Bolivia believes that it is a solid basis that establishes a road map for organizing the presidential elections, in accordance with the Congolese Constitution and resolution 2277 (2016).

With regard to the December 2016 agreement, we are concerned that the monitoring mechanism has not yet been set up and regret the lack of progress in the implementation of the agreed confidence-building measures. We call on all parties to step up those endeavours. We highlight the efforts towards updating the voter registry in 13 provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and we encourage authorities to continue that process in the Kasai and Kasai Central provinces with a view to implementing the 31 December 2016 agreement. We also stress the need for an inclusive dialogue on compliance with the Congolese Constitution that considers the viewpoints of all parties, including the Rassemblement des forces politiques et sociales de la République démocratique du Congo acquises au changement and the ruling majority.

We commend the active support of regional organizations, the participation of the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and each of the guarantors of the peace process which enhance their efforts through political appeasement and cooperation initiatives for sustainable reconciliation. We take note of the diplomatic efforts of the Government that seek to broaden other regional countries' support for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for the implementation of the December 2016 agreement — including bilateral presidential level meetings.

We call on all armed groups to lay down their arms and on all parties to the conflict to set aside any interests that might block fruitful dialogue that would enable the consolidation of agreements that would bring stability to the country. We encourage the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo and MONUSCO to coordinate their efforts.

Finally, we are convinced that the people and the institutions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo must be the ones that make decisions regarding the future of their country. We believe that principle to be a decisive factor in the promotion of peace, stability and development that fully respects the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): When we consider the history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we far too often have witnessed scenes of unspeakable violence and human cruelty. The United Nations and the wider international community have worked tirelessly for years to help bring peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We commend the efforts of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to protect civilians and support implementation of the 31 December agreement. The MONUSCO peacekeeping mission has the very challenging task of helping keep people safe, and we remain committed to ensuring that it is able to effectively fulfil its mandate.

But an essential step to ensuring that history does not once again repeat itself in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is to help the Congolese people complete a transition of power and make their voices heard through a credible, peaceful and inclusive presidential election this year. Election delays cannot continue. The international community must step up and apply more pressure, not only on President Kabila and his Government but also on the Independent National Electoral Commission. The Commission must immediately publish an electoral calendar, and specifically the date for the presidential election.

The United States has already demonstrated that it will take action against those who delay and obstruct the implementation of the 31 December agreement and preparations for credible, peaceful and inclusive presidential elections. We are ready to take additional action to sanction those who stand in the way of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's first democratic transition of power. The Security Council should also consider targeted sanctions to reduce the violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and help pressure all stakeholders to play a more constructive role in moving the country forward. Those responsible for undermining the peace and security of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and democratic institutions must be held accountable. Thus far, stakeholders have felt few consequences for perpetuating instability.

The alternative to supporting a democratic transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a return to violence, which is what we are seeing today in the Kasai regions. This return to horrific violence is an outcome that no one on the Council should want to see, but in the past few months approximately 1.3 million Congolese have been displaced, having fled violence in the Kasais, including nearly 30,000 who are now refugees in neighbouring Angola.

Just five days ago, the Council heard the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, relay the sickening reports coming out of the Kasai regions. We were told that the conflict is "spreading and intensifying", and that hundreds, if not thousands, of children had been forcibly recruited to join the ranks of militant groups. We have seen videos of the Democratic Republic of the Congo military summarily executing civilians, many of whom are children. We have heard reports of Government personnel executing children as young as five years-old, as well as reports of widespread sexual violence committed by the forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There is no doubt about who is perpetrating violence in the Kasai regions and what their motives are.

At the same time, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo there have been violent clashes, and around the country we have seen a surge in prison breaks. Those events, while not necessarily linked, reflect a lack of State authority or, as some have suggested, more deliberate efforts on the part of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to advance the strategy of chaos.

There is no time to delay. We urge the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ensure the rapid start and completion of voter registration in the Kasais. We also welcome the efforts of MONUSCO to help support voter registration in the Kasais, in line with its mandate.

For the United States, our bottom line is clear. The United States supports holding elections on time, per the terms of the 31 December agreement of 2016. There is a narrow window of opportunity for all of us to press the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to stay true to its commitments. All of us need to seize this chance now. We already know what mass violence and horror look like in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We cannot let history repeat itself.

Mr. Biagini (Italy): I thank Under-Secretary-General Lacroix for his comprehensive briefing.

Italy is deeply worried by the worsening of the security and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular in the Kasai provinces. The spillover effect of the situation on the stability of the region should also not be underestimated. We are equally concerned by the shrinking of the democratic space in the country and human rights violations. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has the primary responsibility to respect and protect the rights of all of its citizens. We encourage it to fulfil its obligations, including those to hold accountable the perpetrators of violence.

At the political level, Italy remains convinced that the full implementation of the 31 December agreement continues to be the only viable and agreed political road map, and is therefore key to sustaining the legitimacy of transitional institutions. That transition must lead the country towards democratic and transparent elections, to be help as soon as possible and in compliance with the constitution and the 31 December agreement. In that connection, the Independent National Electoral Commission's declarations today are not encouraging. We call on the Government and Congolese political forces to speed up the preparation of credible, peaceful and inclusive elections conducive to a democratic transfer of power.

In conclusion, let me renew Italy's full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Both play a vital role in the country.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): I wish to thank Mr. Lacroix for his briefing. I welcome his visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo last month to urge key players to fulfil their commitment to the December agreement, especially his engagement with President Kabila. I thought that was very important.

Having heard his briefing, we remain deeply concerned about the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is regrettable that there has been little progress in the political process, including on the implementation of the December agreement. This has been the case since the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) mandate renewal and troop reduction in March. Security in the country has declined, and the situation is especially dire in Kasai. We support MONUSCO's efforts to adapt to the situation and its trying to be as flexible and agile as possible within its mandate, as Mr. Lacroix explained to us today.

Since the consultations we held three months ago, the situation of declining security is spreading, as evidenced by the serious violence in Kasai. The implementation of the political agreement has been slow at best, and the prospect of timely elections remains uncertain. In this regard, we are concerned by the announcement by the Independent National Electoral Commission that it will be unable to conduct the elections by the end of the year. The international community, including the Council, must remain united and committed in sending a clear message to the parties in the Congo, especially the Government, on the need to swiftly implement the agreement, including the holding of elections.

Supporting the political and electoral process is now one of MONUSCO's core mandates. Under-Secretary-General Lacroix has explained to us the main challenges that MONUSCO is currently facing, including the extreme difficulty of voter registration in Kasai given

the situation and the lack of resources in general. He gave us some idea of what else MONUSCO can and must do in supporting the Congolese authorities and these processes, including in particular the early holding of elections. We support the work of MONUSCO.

Regarding another priority task of MONUSCO, that is, the protection of civilians, the Mission has been adjusted to relocate a substantive number of personnel and resources to the western and southern areas so as to better respond to this challenge. The situation in Kasai is dire, with more than 3,300 killings reported by the Catholic church since last October. Civilians continue to be attacked by armed elements in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Does this mean that the reinforcement of up to several hundred personnel in Kasai that is envisioned is not sufficient to achieve results on the ground?

The Council should continue to monitor whether, in the light of the current security situation across the country, the current posture of the Mission is sufficient to ensure the effective and dynamic protection of civilians.

While the overall strategic review is under way, we support MONUSCO's efforts in acting actively and flexibly, adapting to the situation under such difficult circumstances.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Gata Mavita wa Lufuta (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): It is an honour for me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July and to thank you for the opportunity afforded me to address the Council at this meeting, which is devoted to the situation concerning my country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I would like also to extend the gratitude of the Congolese Government and the Congolese people to all members of the Security Council for their commitment to my country's cause and their ongoing concern as they seek to ensure that peace and stability are fully restored throughout all of its territory.

My delegation took note of the content of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)(S/2017/435). I thank the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who has just briefed the Council thereon.

We have a few observations to make regarding the analysis of a number of issues addressed in the report, with a view to deepening the Council's understanding. In that regard, I would particularly focus on issues pertaining to the political situation, the security situation and human rights violations in the Kasai region. I will also briefly touch upon the Force transformation and the strategic dialogue.

As regards the political situation, and as noted in the report in paragraph 3, following a lack of flexibility and of concessions on the part of the Rassemblement des forces politiques et sociales de la République démocratique du Congo acquises au changement, the appointment of the members of the Government has been delayed. This same attitude also prevailed during the signing of the specific arrangements on the implementation of the agreement and led to a delay in the establishment of the National Council for Oversight of the Agreement and the Electoral Process.

As regards the latter issue, it is important to stress that, as part of the forthcoming establishment of said council, a preparatory meeting was held on Monday, 3 July, that brought together the members of the council, including representatives of the Majorité présidentielle, the opposition groups that signed the agreement of 18 October, part of the Rassemblement — those affiliated with Félix Tshisekedi and their allies having refused to participate — and representatives of civil society. Another meeting involving those same individuals will be held shortly and will focus on the appointment by consensus of the chair of said body, the validation of members' mandates and their entry into office, and the drawing up of internal rules of procedure.

As regards the elections, as noted in the report, the process of updating the voter register appears to be well under way. Thirteen of the country's 26 provinces have been fully covered by the process. Efforts are ongoing in 11 others but have not yet begun in the provinces of Kasai and Kasai Central because of the insecurity prevailing there as a result of the activities of the Kamwina Nsapu militia. Indeed, in those provinces certain officers of the Independent National Electoral Commission were singled out; a number of offices were set ablaze and equipment was destroyed. Today a certain degree of calm has returned, and the Commission has committed to once again deploying equipment. According to

the schedule that it has established, operations could commence in both provinces as early as 20 July.

Hence it is critical that displaced persons who fled abroad and to other parts of the country owing to insecurity return to their homes to participate in the process. To that end, the Government invites the peoples of the two provinces to demonstrate greater civic-mindedness so as to enable the process to take place smoothly. It also calls upon political stakeholders of all stripes, civil society and members of the international community to avoid the use of any rhetoric likely to rekindle tensions so as to create an environment conducive to restoring calm and tranquillity, all of which are vital to the holding of elections.

To date, the Independent National Electoral Commission has already registered nearly 33 million of the 45 million expected voters throughout the country.

Going back to the concern that certain Council members expressed about the organization of elections, the Council will agree that we need all of the country's provinces to participate. The fact is that we cannot contemplate organizing a ballot as important as the presidential election without including Kasai and Kasai Central provinces, which represent more than 10 per cent of our entire voting population. It goes without saying that if an election were held without them it could undermine the credibility of the result, which in turn could lead to disorder and trouble.

On the security front, the Government is aware of the worrying situation in the eastern part of the country and in both Kasais. That is why it remains mobilized and focused on acting, with the army's help, to restore order, peace and security and to continue to work to eradicate national and foreign armed groups. In the case of the Kasai provinces generally, as the report acknowledges, our army is working to restore order and curb insecurity there. In that regard, I should mention that a large number — almost 1,700 — of militiamen have surrendered, with their weapons, and have received reintegration kits from the Government, while 138 children from their ranks have been handed over to UNICEF and MONUSCO for social integration.

In connection with the human rights violations reported in those provinces, the President of the Republic had already instructed the Minister of Justice to take the necessary steps to expedite investigations so that all the victims who have experienced atrocities in these regions can see justice done. In that context, the behaviour of the marginal elements of the army who have committed atrocities against civilians in Mwanza Lomba has been condemned by a military court, and it is therefore not true to say, as some Council members have done, that their violations have gone unpunished. The military court is continuing its investigations in order to punish all the guilty parties.

Similarly, we are proceeding with action on the murder of the two United Nations experts. The Government, which has been cooperating on the matter with MONUSCO and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office, is determined to conduct the case transparently and to punish the perpetrators of the crime. In that spirit, we welcomed the request of the United States Government, which is participating in the investigations through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As I have told the Council previously, my Government is also ready and open to working with the Swedish Government if it would like us to. The ongoing investigations have enabled us to arrest 11 more suspects, of whom eight have been identified as having played a direct role in the killing of the experts.

With regard to some Council members' statements, my delegation was surprised by the virulent reactions to our forces of law and order. It is a fact that, as happens in every army all over the world, some marginal elements have committed abuses that we deplore and condemn. My Government has taken the necessary steps to ensure that they are punished. Consider the violence that occurred in the Kasais, where the Kamwina Nsapu militia attacked our security forces, killing and beheading some of them and exhibiting their heads like trophies. If that happened in Council members' countries, how would their forces of law and order react? When a country's armed forces sometimes react violently in the face of even minor events, that we all live through, how do Council members react? What steps do they take? I think we should avoid double standards on such issues. To bring closure to this topic, I would like to assure the Council that justice will be rendered for the United Nations experts as well as for their four Congolese companions, whose bodies have never been found. Ultimately, justice will finally be rendered to all of our compatriots who have fallen victim to the violence of the Kamwina Nsapu militia.

The report also mentions the mass graves that have been found in those parts of the country. In that regard, I should point out what happened just in some cases investigated by a joint mission carried out by MONUSCO

and the military prosecutor of the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) in the commune of Nganza a Kananga, where MONUSCO claimed to have identified seven mass graves. When the first alleged mass grave was opened, they found one body. About 100 metres away, in a second alleged mass grave, the investigators found a 12-bore shotgun. In the third, they found two headless bodies. In Tshimbulu territory, an alleged mass grave had been dug near the place where the two United Nations experts' bodies were found. The joint MONUSCO/FARDC teams found a motorcycle in it. We are not saying that mass graves do not exist. It is up to those who say that they exist to show them to us and for investigators to establish their existence. Unfortunately, as the Council will have realized, in the cases I referred to, which MONUSCO announced with much fanfare, the report avoids saying anything that would contradict it.

The deplorable situation of displaced persons is not confined to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. To date, as the report clearly highlights, the number of refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the beginning of June was 467,473, most of them from neighbouring countries mentioned in the report. Besides these refugees, there are also many foreign armed groups. The regional approach to the situation is therefore important and should continue.

As the report acknowledges with regard to the deployment of MONUSCO and its fulfilment of its mandate, the drawdown of 3,600 peacekeepers that is the subject of one of the provisions of resolution 2348 (2017) has not yet taken place. Nor has the operationalization of the Intervention Brigade. According to our information, that cannot happen until the current troops are replaced by far more seasoned troops with equipment that is better adapted to dealing with asymmetric conflict.

I should not conclude without thanking the United Nations for its commitment and dedication to my country's cause, as well as reiterating our gratitude to all the members of the Security Council.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.